

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3220 Columbus Street, Grove City, Ohio 43123

## A THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

7:00pm

November 23, 2022

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Now Thank We All Our God

arr. by Michael Burhardt

*Please stand*

### OPENING



Almighty God grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



A - men.



It is good to give thanks to the Lord, **to sing praise to your name, O Most High;**



to herald your love in the morning, **your truth at the close of the day.**

### HYMN 840 "Now Thank We All Our God"

#### APOSTOLIC GREETING

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen.

## FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

R: The Word of The Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

R: The Word of The Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





P: The Holy Gospel according to the 6th chapter of John.  
C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

### **HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:25-35**

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” So, they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

P: Glory to you, O Lord!                    C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM:** Thanksgiving Medley

by Cindy Berry

**SERMON**

Pastor Patti Morlock

**HYMN 881 “Let All Things Now Living”**

### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*Response:*    P: Lord in your mercy,  
                  C: **Hear our prayer.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

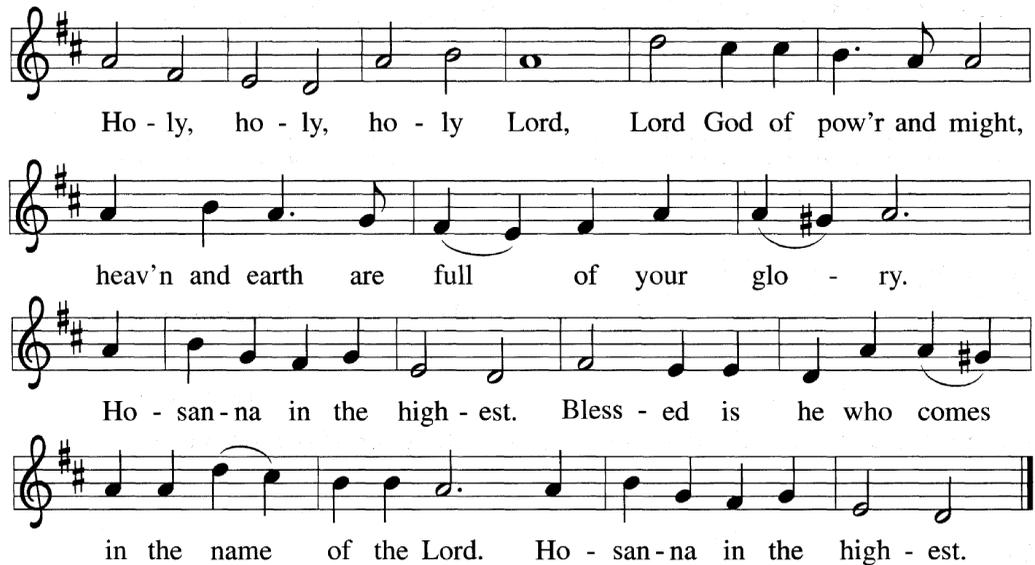
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The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... ..we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C:** Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## SHARING OF THE MEAL

- ◆ *Persons who know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and believe in his real presence in the sacrament are invited to commune. Grape juice is available in the center of the tray.*
- ◆ *Children not yet communing may come forward with their parents to receive a blessing.*
- ◆ *Adults who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Please indicate you desire a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.*
- ◆ *If you are not able to come forward to receive communion, please let the pastor know by raising your hand as he/she scans the congregation. The pastor will come to you.*

## BLESSING, PRAYER, AND BENEDICTION

## SENDING HYMN 870 "We Praise You, O God"

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**ORGAN POSTLUDE:** We Gather Together

arr. by Michael Burkhardt

## Serving Today:

Pastor Patti Morlock

Mark Meuser, Organist

Reader: Neva Warren

Altar Guild: Dellno and Betty Lewis

Communion Assistant: Karen Jersild and Caroline Koethke

Greeters: Averil Mackenzie and Christine Hank





***St. John's Lutheran  
Advent and Christmas Events***

*Christmas Program Dinner Theater  
Sunday, December 11 at 5pm*

*Christmas Kindness Event  
Sunday, December 18 at 4pm*

*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight and Communion Services  
Saturday, December 24  
at 4pm, 6pm, & 8pm*

*Christmas Day Service  
Sunday, December 25 at 10am*

*Please join us! All are welcome!*



# *Listening for the Promise*

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

First Sunday of Advent – November 27, 2022

*“Therefore you also must be ready,  
for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

*–Matthew 24:44–*

Traditionally Lutherans have observed Advent as a season that focuses on the different ways that God comes to us: he comes to us in the flesh in Jesus Christ; he comes to us through the proclamation and preaching of his Word; and he promises to come to us again. The word *advent* is derived from the Latin word that means “coming, arrival.” Over the years there have been many predictions made about the “end of the world.” Those predicted dates come and go. Jesus says in verse 36, “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.” Jesus does not even know when he will be returning to our world. So often we get caught up in the “when” and miss Jesus’ main point. It’s a promise that he will return. And so he urges us to be ready because it will occur when we least expect it.

So that begs the question: what do we do to be ready? In 2020 many of us (if not all of us) were caught by great surprise at the advent (arrival) of Covid-19. I was really caught off-guard by the lack of supplies and food like toilet paper, bottled water, milk, eggs, and bread. We can try to prepare all we want, but it does us no good. As for preparing for Christ’s return, we can give to all the charities, try to do all the good we can, treat others with kindness and respect, but if we lack one thing (the most important thing of all), all the preparations in the world won’t help us one iota.

So again, the question is asked: what do we do to be ready for Christ’s return? Well, it begins simply with faith. We place our faith and trust in Christ Jesus our Lord. And with that comes repentance and forgiveness of sin. We trust in God’s goodness and his promises for us and our lives. That’s all the preparation we need! Furthermore, because of that Spirit-given gift of faith, we have no reason to fear when Christ comes again. We have every reason to rejoice and humbly bow before him as he graces us with his presence once more.

**Prayer:** Gracious Heavenly Father, thank you for the promise of your Son Jesus Christ. Give us faith to believe in your goodness and mercy. In Jesus’ name. Amen.