



# *A Service for the Eve of Thanksgiving*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
2330 E. Calumet St., Appleton, Wisconsin  
Wednesday, November 24, 2021 — 6:15 p.m.

ELW denotes the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal  
P — Pastor      C — Congregation

*Tonight's readings reflect two of the strains that go into the celebration of a National Day of Thanksgiving: gratitude for abundant harvest (Joel) and civic prayer for a peaceable common life (1 Timothy). The core meaning of Thanksgiving for many of us—a home feast for extended family and friends—is not reflected in the readings; but it is reflected weekly in the church's meal of thanksgiving (eucharist). What we wish for both these thanksgiving meals is that they will go deeper than celebration of one another and our own blessings, to recognize in our true Host one who wants everyone brought to the table.*

## GATHERING MUSIC

## WELCOME to WORSHIP

## INVOCATION & LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty and gracious God, in our abundance it is difficult for us to realize that many people are hungry. The earth you created can provide food for everyone, but for sins of selfishness or thoughtlessness, there are many who go hungry.

C **Awake us, O Lord, to the needs of others. Help us to turn our selfishness into giving, our thoughtlessness into concern and love.**

P Look in mercy on the poor and hungry in their suffering and supply their needs. Keep them from becoming discouraged, bitter and resentful. Be their refuge in time of trouble and help them to experience your love and power.

C **Help us to see the needs of people on our street, in our community and throughout the world. Kindle in our hearts a love that radiates sympathy, kindness, concern, and generosity to all people.**

P Keep us mindful that it is you that provides us with every blessing in abundance so that we have enough to fill our needs.

C **Remind us that our daily lives should reflect the thankfulness we profess and make us ready and eager to share our possessions, our time, ourselves, and the message of salvation with others.**

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 693

***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come***

*St. George's, Windsor*

**Come, ye thankful people, come;  
praise the song of harvest home.**

**All be safely gathered in  
ere the winter storms begin.**

**God, our maker, doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied.**

**Come to God's own temple, come,  
praise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field,  
fruit unto his praise to yield;  
wheat and tares together sown,  
unto joy or sorrow grown.**

**First the blade, and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear.**

**Lord of harvest, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come  
and shall take his harvest home;  
from his field shall in that day  
all offenses purge away;  
give his angels charge at last  
in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in his garner evermore.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come  
to thy final harvest home.**

**Gather then thy people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there, forever purified,  
in thy garner to abide.**

**Come, with all thine angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest home!**

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, our Father,  
C **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. Amen**

FIRST READING

Joel 2:21-27

*The prophet Joel understood that a locust plague that ravaged the land of Judah was God's judgment on the people, whom he then called to repentance. Today's reading points beyond the judgment to a time when God will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.*

<sup>7</sup>Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! <sup>22</sup>Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. <sup>23</sup>O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. <sup>24</sup>The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. <sup>25</sup>I will repay you for the

years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. <sup>26</sup>You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. <sup>27</sup>You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

P Word of God, word of life.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

*Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people, including rulers. We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.*

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the

knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all —this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

P Word of God, word of life.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Give Thanks**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"  
let the poor say, "I am rich,"  
because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks!**

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HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25-33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety.*

[Jesus said,] <sup>25</sup>"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even

Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Jennifer DeNetz

HYMN ELW 840

**Now Thank We All Our God**

*Nun danket alleGgott*

**Now thank we all our God  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers' arms,  
has blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.**

Oh, may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us all in grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all harm  
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son, and Spirit blest,  
who reign in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heav'n adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

#### APOSTLES CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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

P God whose giving knows no ending, you invite the whole world to your table of mercy.  
Hear us as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

Petitions end: God, in your mercy,

Response: ...**hear our prayer.**

P God, your welcome is wider than we can imagine. Receive our prayers for the sake of  
your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us.

C **Amen**

#### OFFERING



OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Holy God,

C **the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*~ O Give Thanks ~*

*[Adapted from a Hymn Setting of Holy Communion for Thanksgiving]*

THE DIALOG

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up our hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

Sung to the tune: *St. George's, Windsor*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord!  
God of hosts, by all adored!  
Heav'n and earth cannot contain  
All the glory of your name!  
Hail, hosanna, God most high!  
Blest is he who now draws nigh  
In the name of God the King  
Glad hosannas, Lord, we sing.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**Our heav'nly Father, hear your faithful children's prayer:  
Your name, divine and dear, be hallowed ev'rywhere!  
Your kingdom come! Your heav'nly will  
Among us, still, on earth be done!**

**The bread for which we yearn each day, O Father, give.  
Forgive us, as in turn our debtors we forgive.  
Your people lead in trial's hours.  
From Satan's pow'r let us be freed.**

**For you, O Lord, are King: all pow'r is yours, we own;  
Your glory now we sing, the glory yours alone.  
So shall it be; your kingdom, might,  
And glory bright, eternally!**



*In the bread and wine, we believe Christ is truly present. Much more than a sign, story or symbol of God's love, it is an event where God reaches down to us through common earthly elements and invites us into the mystery and miracle of a relationship with him, the Word made flesh for us. All, who have been baptized, are invited to this experience of God's love, where He is our host and we are his guests, who will take the message of his love into the world.*

COMMUNION SONGS

**Come to the Table**

Repeat as directed by the cantors. You may sing Part I or Part II.

Part I

Come to the ta - ble,                      come to the ta - ble.

Part II

Come            one,            come    all.            Come            one,            come    all.

Part I

Come to the ta - ble,                      come to the ta - ble.

Part II

Come            one,            come    all.            Come            one,            come    all.

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ELW 477

***I Received the Living God***

*Living God*

*Refrain*

**I received the living God,  
 and my heart is full of joy.  
 I received the living God,  
 and my heart is full of joy.**

**Jesus said: I am the bread,  
 kneaded long to give you life;  
 you who will partake of me  
 need not ever fear to die. *Refrain***

**Jesus said: I am the way,  
 and my Father longs for you;  
 so I come to bring you home  
 to be one with us anew. *Refrain***

**Jesus said: I am the truth;  
 come and follow close to me.  
 You will know me in your heart,  
 and my word shall make you free. *Refrain***

**Jesus said: I am the life,  
 far from whom no thing can grow,  
 but receive this living bread,  
 and my Spirit you shall know. *Refrain***

Text: Anonymous

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
 C **Amen**

THE THANKSGIVING

Sung to the tune:: *Nun danket alle Gott*

**Lord, let your servant go  
With peace and exultation,  
For my own eyes have seen  
Your manifest salvation,  
Let for the darkened world  
And Israel's glory true!  
To Father, Spirit, Son—  
Be praises ever due!**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet.

C **Amen**

THE BENEDICTION

Sung to the tune:: *Kremser*

The Lord bless and keep you  
God's face shine upon you;  
The Lord look with favor  
And grant you his peace.  
**May all of our living  
Resound with thanksgiving:  
To Father, Son, and Spirit  
Our praises increase!**

SENDING SONG  
ELW 881

*The Ash Grove*

***Let All Things Now Living***  
**Let all things now living  
a song of thanksgiving  
to God the creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us,  
protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the end of our days.  
God's banners are o'er us,  
God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished  
and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into light.**  
**God rules all the forces:  
the stars in their courses  
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
the hills and the mountains,  
the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.**

**We too should be voicing  
our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise  
fill all things now living  
unite in thanksgiving:  
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"**

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## DISMISSAL

- P We are a family of Christians  
C **...growing in faith and reaching out in love.**  
P Go in peace, be thankful and share God's bounty.  
C **Thanks be to God!**



## Worship Leaders

Preaching Minister	Jennifer DeNetz
Presiding Minister	Roger McQuiston
Musicians	Sondra Joten, Stephanie Jacobs Jeff Sheffler
Ushers	Bill Lempesis & Ron Joten



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## *Midweek Advent Worship*

During our Advent Midweek services (at 6:15 p.m.) we will use our traditional "Joyous Light" liturgy. Our theme will be "Answering the Call of Christ" from the perspective people who were there at the nativity using brief videos and meditations. Our final service will be a Healing Service.

Dec. 1 – Zechariah  
Dec. 8 – Mary

Dec 15 – Joseph  
Dec. 22 – Healing

## *Mission Statement*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a family of Christians  
*Growing in Faith and Reaching out in Love*

## *PoP Vision 2024*

We will be...an engaged and inclusive congregation of disciples,  
transforming the lives in our community through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**W**elcome to **God's House** which is the spiritual home of all who come to worship today. Part of Prince of Peace Church's mission statement says that we are "a family of Christians." Because God has made us family, we gather together in this church home and online to receive the Lord's strength, comfort and peace. Christ, our brother, is here, and his presence will change us. As new people, we leave this time of worship to go out and live our daily lives in the world as ambassadors for Christ. Go, but remember to come home. Join us next Sunday!

**T**he **Glass Cross on the Altar is unique.** There are only 3 of these handmade crosses in the world. The other two are in congregations with whom we share our ministry. One is on the altar of Kopano Lutheran Church in Mogwase, South Africa and the other is at the Evangelische Stadtpfarrkirche Hermannstadt in Sibiu, Romania. These Lutheran churches are ministry partners with us with whom we have shared visits, resources, and mutual support. Each Sunday as we gather in worship under this common cross, we are reminded of our faith in our Savior, Jesus the Christ, whose Spirit unites peoples of different countries, races, cultures and histories under His benevolent love.

 A hearing loop system is installed in our sanctuary. Those with hearing aid devices may activate their T-Coil technology.

As a courtesy to others, please remember to **turn off your mobile devices** during worship.