



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.

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## **Welcome to Worship!**

Thanksgiving was established as a national holiday during a most unlikely time. On October 3, 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26, 1863. In 1942, in the midst of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation designating the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

As we see in today's readings, believers regularly offered thanks to God throughout the pages of Scripture. Noah, the Psalmists, James, Zaccheus—all of these recognized God's hand and God's blessings in their life and responded accordingly. And so we too echo their words of thanks as we come together in worship today. For his divine providence, for his daily care of all our needs, for the beauty of his creation, and most especially for the gift of his Son, we give thanks to God. "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name...."

## **Worship Notes**

It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.

If you need assistance with anything during worship—including large-print service folders and assisted listening devices—please ask one of our ushers. Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area. Small children can be taken into the entry area, mother's room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed during the worship service. Changing tables are available in the mother's room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.

During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or located online at [www.sjtosa.org/Connect](http://www.sjtosa.org/Connect)). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

# Thanksgiving

## November 23 & 24, 2022

“O give thanks unto the Lord...”

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### Prelude

#### Call to Worship

*Adult Choir*

All Praise and Thanks  
*arranged by Adam Sipe*

All praise and thanks, thanks be to God, the Father now be given,  
the Son and him who reigns with them in heav'n, in highest heav'n:  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore.  
For thus it was and shall be evermore. All praise and thanks to God!

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#### Opening Hymn

*Please stand to sing the final stanza*

For the Beauty of the Earth  
*Christian Worship 505*

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

#### Thanksgiving Gathering Rite

*selected verses from Psalm 65*

Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.  
**You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.**

*(sung)*    **We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;  
**where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.**

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly.

**The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.**

You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.

**You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.**

The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.

**The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.**

*(sung)*     **We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;  
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.  
When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
and with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.**

Because our God of grace uses his mighty power to rescue us, we humbly approach his throne, penitent for our sins and begging for his full and free forgiveness.

**Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus’ sake.**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*(sung)*     **Your love you have shown us, your only Son sending,  
who came as a babe and whose bed was a stall.  
His blest life he gave us and then he died to save us;  
we praise you, Lord our Savior, for your gift to all.**

When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.

**Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts.**

We are filled with the good things of your house.

**We are filled with the blessings of your holy temple.**

You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior,  
**the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,**

who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,  
**who stilled the roaring of the seas and the turmoil of the nations.**

*(sung)* **With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us;  
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

## The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord, maker of all things, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. We praise you for crowning the fields with your blessings and enabling us once more to gather in the fruits of the earth. Teach us to use your gifts carefully, that our land may continue to yield its increase; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

### First Reading

Genesis 8:18–22

*Noah offers thanks to God after the flood.*

So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest,  
cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

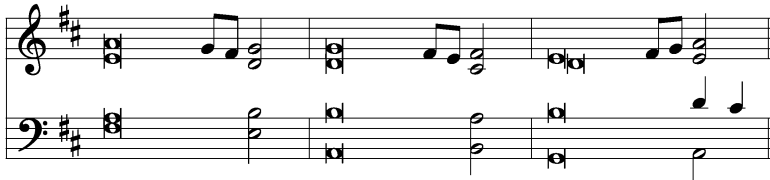
Psalm 100

### Refrain



En - ter his gates with thanks-giv - ing.

### Tone



Shout for joy to the LORD, / all the earth.  
Worship the LORD with / gladness;  
come before him with / joyful songs.

Know that the / LORD is God.  
It is he who made us, and / we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his / pasture. *Refrain*

Enter his gates with thanks- / giving  
and his / courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and / praise his name.

For the / LORD is good  
and his love endures for- / ever;  
his faithfulness continues through all gener- / ations.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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Setting: ELW

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## Second Reading

James 1:16–18

*We offer thanks to God for every good and perfect gift.*

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 136:1

Alleluia, alleluia. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. Alleluia.

## Gospel

Luke 19:1–10

*Zacchaeus offered thanks to Jesus for his salvation.*

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Anthem**  
*Adult Choir*

Lift Your Voice with Joy and Thanksgiving  
*arranged by John Leavitt*

Lift your voice with joy and thanksgiving,  
sing praise to God on this holy day.

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**Hymn of the Day**  
*Stanzas 1 & 3: congregation; stanza 2: choir*

Now Thank We All Our God  
*Christian Worship 597*

**Sermon**

Psalm 100

***The Basis for Our Thanksgiving***

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness;  
    come before him with joyful songs.  
Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
    we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
    give thanks to him and praise his name.  
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
    his faithfulness continues through all generations.

*Please stand*

**Confession of Faith (from Luther's Small Catechism, First Article)**

**I believe that God made me and all creatures, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind, my senses, and all my abilities.**

**And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, cattle, and all my goods, and all that I need to keep my body and life; and by defending me against all danger and guarding and protecting me from all evil.**

**All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it.**

**For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him. This is most certainly true. Amen.**



## **Prayer of the Church**

Heavenly Father, every good and perfect gift comes from you. We remember your loving kindness and your mercies which are new every day.

**We join our voices in grateful praise.**

For the beauty and bounty of the world; for day and night, summer and winter, seed-time and harvest; and for the varied joys that every season brings;

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For the joys and comforts of life; for homes and families; for friends, neighbors, and co-workers; and for the love of those you have put into our lives;

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For the opportunities you give us to serve others; for the tasks and trials you place before us; and for the comfort we are blessed to bring to those around us;

**we give you thanks, O God.**

For the gift of Jesus Christ; for the forgiveness of sins and justification in your sight that is ours through faith; and for the many and varied ways of living out this faith in our lives;

**we give you thanks, O God.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow*

For the sure and certain hope of heaven; for the promise that we will one day stand before your throne; and for the unending joy that will be ours when we join our voices with all the saints in your presence;

**we give you thanks, O God.**

Until that glorious day, cause us to live our lives in gratitude to you.

**Send us out into the world to daily praise and thank you for all your undeserved blessings.**

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Offering

*Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. All worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder). Physical offerings and Connection Cards can be left in the basket on your way out of church. To submit your offering electronically or fill out a Connection Card online, scan the QR code or visit [www.sjtosa.org/offering](http://www.sjtosa.org/offering).*



## Hymn

Sing to the Lord of Harvest  
Christian Worship 508

*Please stand*

Heavenly Father, giver of all things, on this day we give you thanks for the countless blessings you have so freely bestowed on us and all people. Without any merit or worthiness in us, you have abundantly provided for us in body and soul. Enable us to receive your daily gifts with thanksgiving and joyfully look forward to that day when we will join with all believers in never-ending thanks and praise around the throne of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Closing Hymn

Feed Your Children, God Most Holy  
Christian Worship 509

## Announcements

## Postlude

## Acknowledgments

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## Serving at Worship

**Preacher**

Pastor Joel Leyrer

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Eric Schroeder

**Musicians**

Lynn Kozlowski, organ  
Mark Maurice, Jr., trumpet

**Adult Choir Director**

Adam Sipe

Make a  
*joyful noise*  
to the LORD  
Psalm 100:1

# The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21<sup>st</sup> century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

## Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

## Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

## Pastors

*Pastor Joel Leyrer*  
[joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org](mailto:joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org)

*Pastor Eric Schroeder*  
[eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org](mailto:eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org)

## Chinese Outreach

### Pastor

*Pastor Joshua Yu*  
[joshua.yu@sjtosa.org](mailto:joshua.yu@sjtosa.org)

## School Principal

*Mr. Dan Markgraf*  
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