

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Meyersville, Texas

November 22, 2023



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Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service 7:00 p.m.



MISSION STATEMENT

We the members of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Meyersville, strive to be witnesses for Christ, a Christian family striving to be models and examples to others, loving one another and trying to be friendly to all; acknowledging that we are sinful, but being patient, faithful, giving, caring, forgiving, and forgiven believers.

ORGAN PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN: “Come, You Thankful People, Come”

LBW #407

Come, you thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.

All is safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin.

God, our maker, does provide For our wants to be supplied.

Come to God’s own temple, come, Raise 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 your final harvest home.

Gather all your people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,

There, forever purified, In your garner to abide.

Come, with all your angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home!

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people.

People: We pray that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

Pastor: Do not be anxious about anything,

People: But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Pastor: On this Eve of Thanksgiving Day let us, first, confess our neglect of God's good gifts and pray for forgiveness and faith.

People: Lord God, we confess that, though every good and perfect gift comes from you, we have not always been aware of your goodness nor have we paused to give you the praise and thanks that you are due. Open our eyes as we open our hands that we may know your mercy, receive your forgiveness and give you our heartfelt gratitude, not only this day but all our days.

Pastor: Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God,

All: Our heavenly Father, your mercies are new to us every morning, and you abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul, though we have not deserved your goodness. Give us your Holy Spirit, that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ “When you come into the land which the LORD your God gives you for an inheritance, and have taken possession of it, and live in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God gives you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place which the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. ³ And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, ‘I declare this day to the LORD your God that I have come into the land which the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ ⁴ Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand, and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God. ⁵ “And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father; and he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number; and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. ⁶ And the Egyptians treated us harshly, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage. ⁷ Then we cried to the LORD the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice, and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression; ⁸ and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror, with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which thou, O LORD, hast given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God, and worship before the LORD your God; ¹¹ and you shall rejoice in all the good which the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:4-9

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Stand as you are able.

GOSPEL: John 6:25-35

Pastor: The holy Gospel according to John the 6th chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

When {the crowd} found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” 26Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” 28Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” 29Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” 30So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” 32Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” 35Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

HOMILY

HYMN: “We Give Thee but Thine Own”

LBW #410

**We give thee but thine own, Whate’er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**May we thy bounties thus As stewards true receive,
And gladly, as thou blest us, To thee our first fruits give.**

**Hearts still are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled Are straying from the fold.**

**To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
To tend those lost in loneliness, Is angels' work below.**

**The captive to release, The lost to God to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace It is a Christ like thing.**

**And we believe thy word, Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er we do for thine, O Lord, We do it unto thee.**

Stand as you are able.

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith together.

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 body, and life everlasting. Amen**

OFFERTORY

Stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Pastor: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

People: Sing unto the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

Pastor: Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

People: for his steadfast love endures forever!

Pastor: O give thanks to the God of gods;

People: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: O give thanks to the Lord of lords;

People: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: O give thanks to the God of heaven;

People: for his steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

People: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Pastor: Seek the LORD, and his strength; seek his presence continually!

People: Remember the wondrous works that he has done; his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

Pastor: And all the angels were standing around the throne, and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne, and worshiped God saying:

People: Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

Stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

O holy Lord, we give you endless praise and thanks; for you have given yourself on the cross to save us from our sins, and now you have given your holy self to us — your body and your blood — to nourish and strengthen our souls. Stay with us and continue to bless us through all of our days, and lead us by the Holy Spirit to live for you, the Trinity in unity.

All: Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *“Let All Things Now Living”*

LBW #557

**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,
His 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.**

**His law enforces, 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 him divine. We too should be voicing
Our love and rejoicing; With glad adoration a song let
us raise Till all things now living Unite in thanksgiving:
“To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!”**

After the singing of the hymn, the congregation is dismissed.