

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
of Stillwater, Minnesota  
November 26, 2025  
Thanksgiving Eve

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Your presence at worship is important to God and to us! Whether you are a first-time visitor, frequent participant, neighbor, member, or friend, please take a moment as you prepare for worship to share some information on the "Welcome to Worship" card included with your bulletin. Place it in the offering plate at the time the offering is received.

very gathering for worship has elements of thanksgiving. When we are nourished with God's bounty in holy communion, when we partake of Jesus' word that gives life to the world, and even when two or three of us simply join our hearts in prayer to make our requests known to God, we do so "with thanksgiving." Let us give thanks to God, who is good and whose mercy endures forever.

Many of our worship materials are taken from the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW). Page numbers are located in the front half of the book and hymn numbers are located in the back half of the book.

The assembly **speaks** or **sings** the bold responses.



Prelude

Gathering Song

ELW hymn 883

*"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"*

Greeting

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

**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.

**Amen.**

Reading

Pew Bible: Old Testament Pages 180-181

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

*The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. As they bring their offerings, worshipers remember and proclaim God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.*

*At the conclusion:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*



*"Now Thank We All Our God"*



Prayers of Intercession

*After each prayer:  
Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*At the conclusion:*

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*All are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

Offering

*Our offering is a collection of money for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, as a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. Your offering and "Welcome to Worship" card may be placed in the offering plate. The QR code on the right may be used if you wish to give electronically.*



## Thanksgiving for the Word

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**



Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

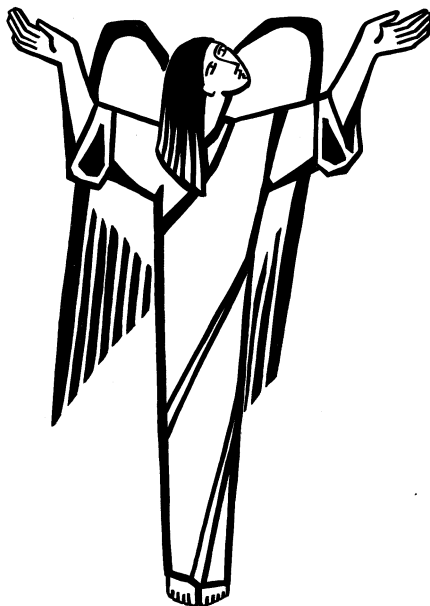
**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

Evening Anthem

*"All Praise to Thee"*

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## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

**Amen.**

## Sending Song

ELW Hymn 881

*"Let All Things Now Living"*

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

### **The Life-Giving Lesson**

The 2009 Disney movie *The Princess and the Frog* follows a young woman named Tiana, who is pursuing her father's dream of opening a restaurant. She works hard at multiple jobs, night and day, to make this a reality. But her plans and dreams are derailed when she kisses a frog prince and is herself turned into a frog. The two frogs begin a harrowing journey toward their transformation back into humans and learn many life lessons along the way. The biggest lesson for Tiana is that she is missing life by only working. She is missing out on love, laughter, friendship, and joy.

Jesus' admonition "Do not work for the food that perishes" (John 6:27) can be hard to hear for those who work night and day to literally provide sustenance for their families. Certainly, Jesus does not wish anyone to starve to death. Rather, he is pointing us to the same lesson Tiana needed to learn. We are all biological organic matter that requires food and water to sustain life. However, if our only purpose is to exist, we are not living.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus uses bread metaphors to teach about the kingdom of God. The kingdom is often understood as the "afterlife," but the author urges us to focus closer to home, on the realm of God on earth. Here Jesus calls us to work for the kingdom, the life-breath for all creation that is more than just food. The kingdom is a way of living for God, for our neighbor, and for the world to come. What do we strive to live for in life? What aspects of your life are life-giving? On this day of thanksgiving, for what do we give thanks to God?