

Thanksgiving Eve Worship
November 21, 2018
Trinity Lutheran Church

Opening Anthem “Come Ye Thankful People Come”
The Order for Confession and Forgiveness

Opening Hymn: #561 “We Gather Together”

Thanksgiving Litany:

Lord Jesus, we gather freely to remember our blessings.

There’s so much to be thankful for.

We are grateful for our nation, and our protection from oppression.

There’s so much to be thankful for.

Our hearts find comfort from friends and family, those present and passed away.

There’s so much to be thankful for.

For the bounty of our fields, and a harvest unmarred by tragedy or mishap;

We thank and praise you for your providence.

For the assurance of employment and the comfort of fulfilling work;

We thank and praise you for your constancy.

For the watchfulness of our military personnel, for the vigilance of our police;

We thank and praise you for your protection through their devotion and dedication.

For our homes, for warmth in winter and shade in summer;

We thank and praise you for our common welfare.

For the many opportunities you afford us to care for others by what we freely give;

We thank and praise you for your command and your example.

Lord Jesus, we receive so much without our thought or consideration.

There’s so much to be thankful for.

Receive our grateful prayers, and press us to pursue that which you desire.

There’s so much to be thankful for.

The First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

15 When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?” **16** So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died: **17** ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.

19 But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God?”

20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. **21** So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Psalm 65: #704 (Please read in unison)

The Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5** Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Hymn #560 “For the Beauty of the Earth”

Gospel of the Day: Matthew 7:7-27

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

9 "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! 12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

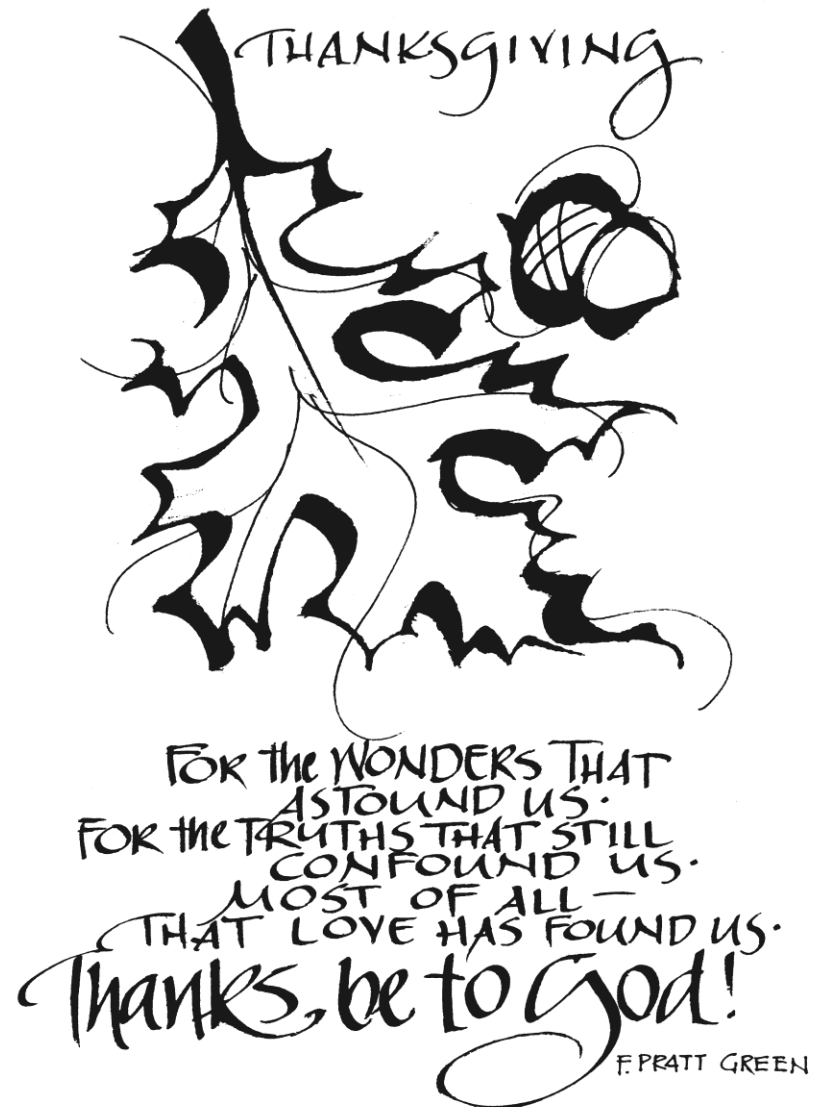
The Message

Offering hymn: #76 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

The Prayers

Closing Hymn: #556 "Now Thank We All Our God"

The Benediction



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