

*You shall eat in
plenty and be satisfied*

JOEL 2:26



A Thanksgiving Eve
November 24, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.



Grace Lutheran Church

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www.gracelutherancu.org • Pastor: Chris Repp

Welcome to Grace!

We're glad you've joined us as we assemble to be encountered by God in this service through word and sacrament. We believe that God is at work here to create and sustain faith in God's promises of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation in Jesus Christ. We use a rich, traditional pattern of worship that dates to the early days of Christianity. We recognize that it comes with a bit of a learning curve, but we're convinced that it's worth the effort. Don't feel like you have to get everything the first time. We'll "carry" you until you get a feel for it. This way of worshipping also includes postures like standing and kneeling that may not be possible or comfortable for everyone. Please know that you are free to do what works for you.

We are still in the midst of a global pandemic, and Grace is committed to following all public health guidelines. Currently we are asking everyone to wear a mask and to keep physical distance from others who are not in your "bubble" (e.g. family.) Please sit only in pews with green tape across the back, and not in those marked with blue tape across the seat. Green tape crosses on the floor in the center aisle and up front are intended to help you keep your distance from others during Communion. Please see the Communion section of the service below for more.

We encourage singing hymns using the hymnals, but please keep your mask on at all times.

KEY TO THE ORDER OF SERVICE:

Regular type: spoken by a leader

Bold type: spoken by the people

Regular Italics: sung/chanted by a leader

Bold Italics: sung/chanted by the people

Small Italics: liturgical directions and info.

✝ the sign of the cross may be made

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship
(Red Hymnal)

HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR VISITORS:

- Restrooms are in the hall to the left of the main entrance, opposite the elevator.
- Hand sanitizer is available on the sanctuary windowsills.
- Please sign our guest book at the entrance.

As We Gather:

Today'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

Prelude

Welcome

The assembly stands.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you
and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables
and have turned away the stranger.**

**We have sought glory for ourselves
and have treasured that which does not satisfy.**

**Help us to love as you love,
to welcome those you send,
and to treasure mercy and justice.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways,
and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for ✝ Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

We Praise You, O God

ELW 870



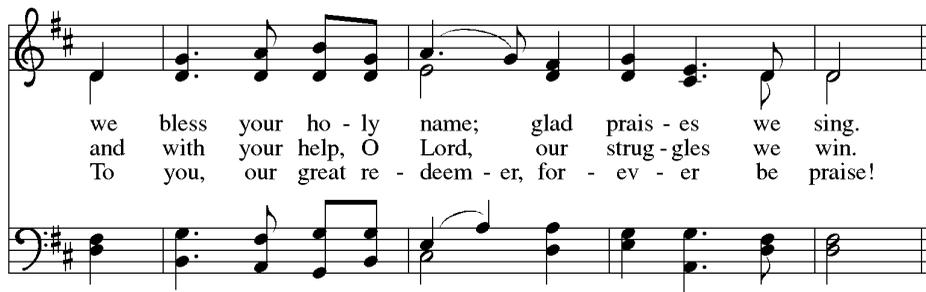
1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;
3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.



we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

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.

The assembly is seated.

Word

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.

- ²¹Do not fear, O soil;
 be glad and rejoice,
 for the Lord has done great things!
- ²²Do 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.
- ²³O 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.
- ²⁴The threshing floors shall be full of grain,
 the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
- ²⁵I 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.

²⁶You 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.

²⁷You 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Psalmody

Psalm 126

¹When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

³The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. R**

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.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For 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.

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

The assembly stands.

Gospel

Matthew 6:25-33

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,] ²⁵“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? ²⁶Look 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? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But 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? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

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

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

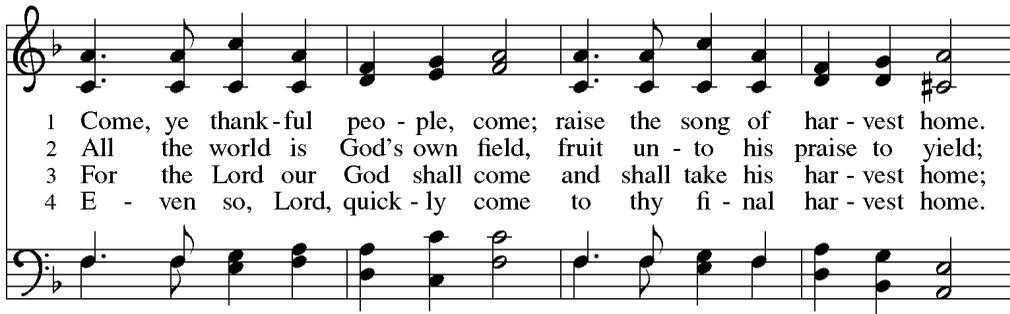
Pastor Chris Repp

The assembly stands.

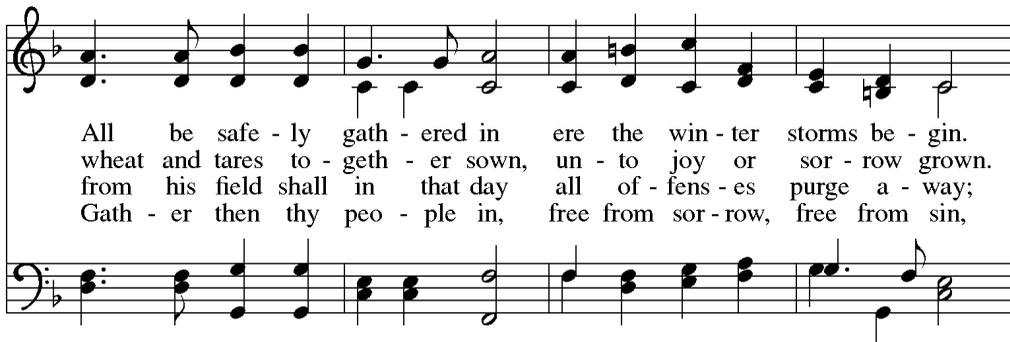
Hymn of the Day

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

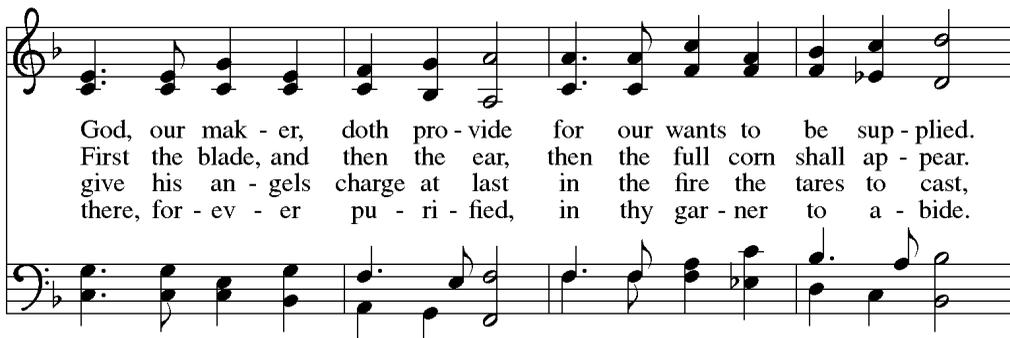
ELW 693



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Prayers of Intercession

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.

Each petition concludes:

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet those with them with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. With others, please share a sign of peace from a distance.

After the Peace, the assembly is seated.

Offering

Please place your offering in the plate on the table in the aisle as you leave.

You may also give online at <http://glccu.org/donate>.

The assembly stands.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

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 Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

ELW 840

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re-joice - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Support

The ministry of the church is carried out by all of its people, and Christian worship is a communal activity of the whole assembly. We give thanks to the following for their worship leadership and support today.

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Chris Repp	Director of Music:	Andy Bruhn
Assisting Minister:	Claire Vail	Organist:	Ted Turner
Office Assistant:	Lyla Vipinraj	Sound Technician:	Kevin Vail

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Blessings to all on your Thanksgiving celebrations this weekend!

