

# FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado  
(303) 776-2800 | [www.firstluth.org](http://www.firstluth.org)  
Pastor: Garrett Struessel

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November 27, 2024  
Thanksgiving Eve Service  
6:00 pm



*Welcome! We are so glad you are with us!*  
*Worship leaders will indicate times to sit and stand.*  
*Please feel comfortable to stay seated, if that is best for you.*

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## OPENING LITANY

It is good to give thanks to God.

**How great are God's works!**

It is good to give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

**We will worship God with thanksgiving!**

## GATHERING HYMN

*"Come, Ye Thankful People Come"*

ELW 693

## THANKSGIVING RESPONSE

What shall I render to the Lord

**for all God's benefits to me?**

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving

**and I will call on the name of the Lord.**

I will take the cup of salvation

**and I will call on the name of the Lord.**

I will pay my vows to the Lord

**now in the presence of the people**

In the courts of the Lord's house.

**in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**


## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

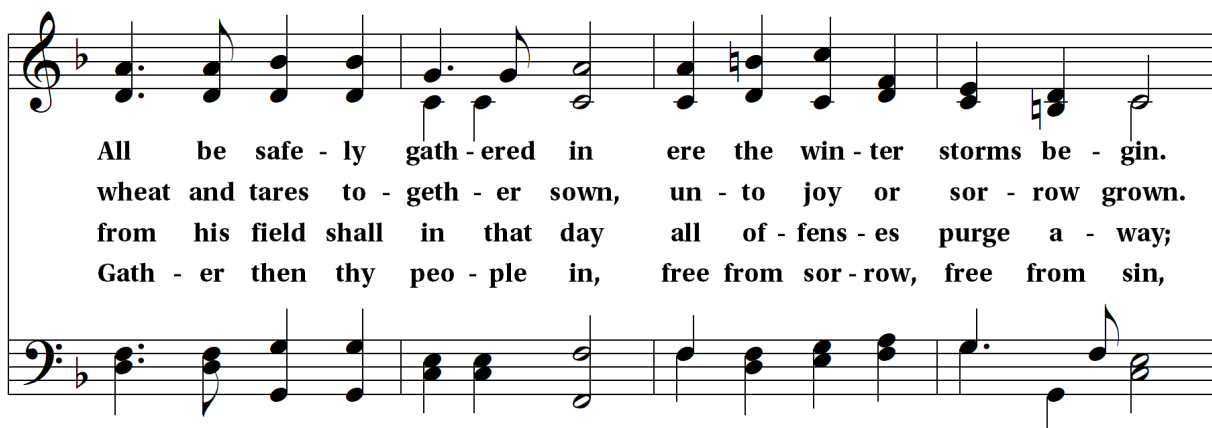
**And also with you.**

# Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

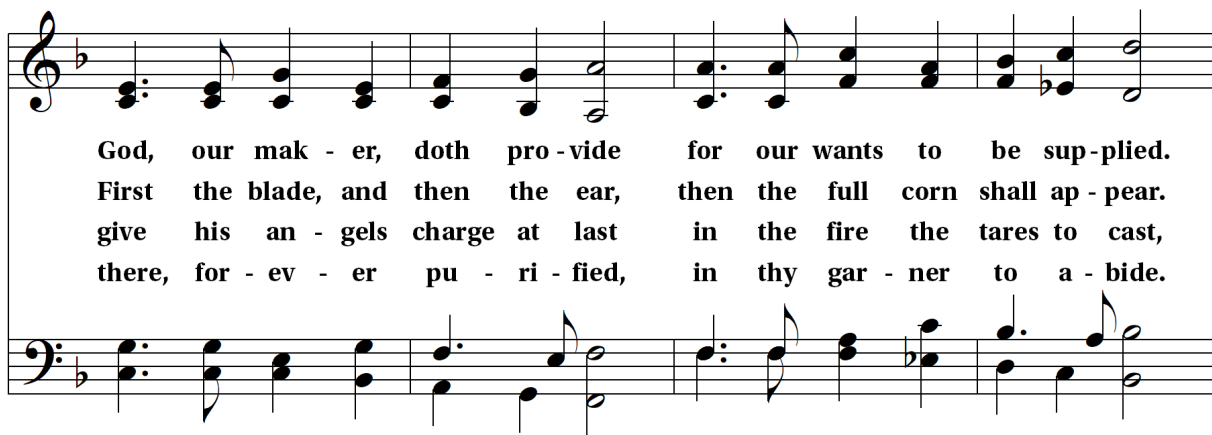
ELW 693



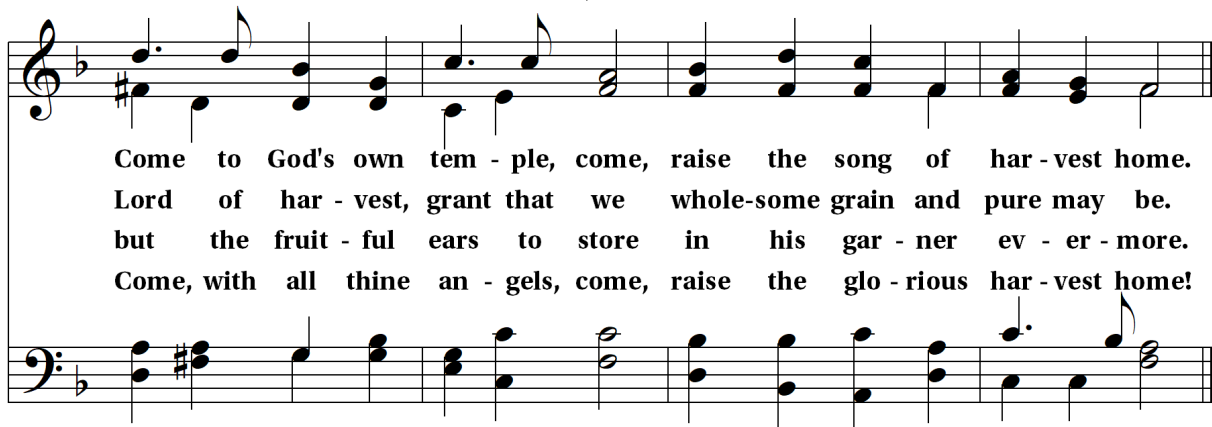
1. Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
2. All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
3. For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;  
4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



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!

Let us pray,

**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.**

*We are glad you are worshipping with us. Guests and members, please give your contact information on the blue card in the pew and place it in the offering plate.*

## **WORD**

### **ANTHEM**

*“Harvest of Praise”* by Nolan/PattersonChancel Choir

### **READINGS**

#### **Joel 2:21-27**

<sup>21</sup>Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! <sup>22</sup>Do 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. <sup>23</sup>O 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. <sup>24</sup>The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. <sup>25</sup>I 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. <sup>26</sup>You 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. <sup>27</sup>You 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.**

### **HYMN**

*“Praise and Thanksgiving”*

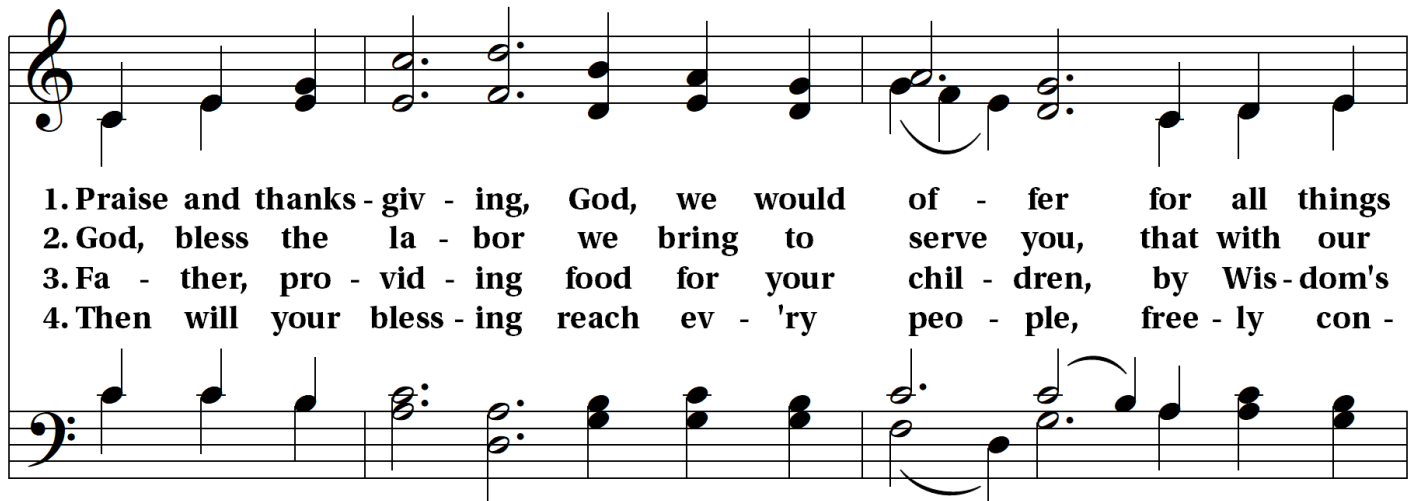
*ELW 689*

#### **1 Timothy 2:1-7**

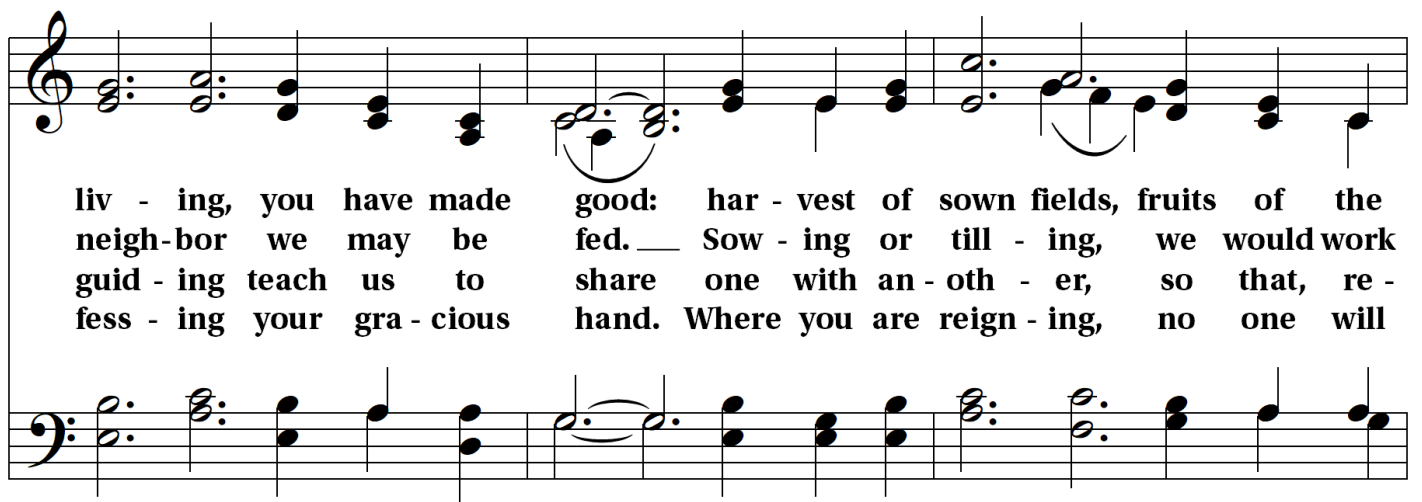
<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all — this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For 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.

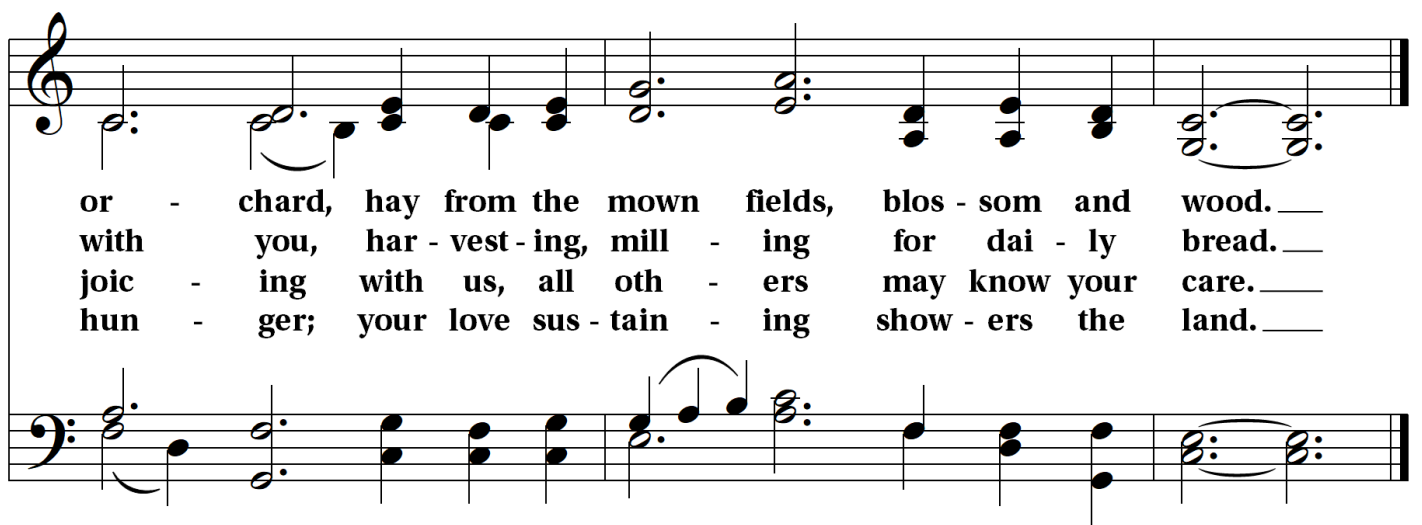
**Thanks be to God.**



1. Praise and thanks - giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things  
 2. God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our  
 3. Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's  
 4. Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the  
 neigh - bor we may be fed. — Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work  
 guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -  
 fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood. —  
 with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread. —  
 joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care. —  
 hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land. —

Text: Albert F Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.  
 Music: Gaelic Tune; arr. hymnal version  
 Text © Oxford University Press  
 Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

BUNESSAN  
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## HYMN

*“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

ELW 679

## GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter beginning at the 25<sup>th</sup> verse.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 6:25-33**

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Garrett Struessel

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Lift Every Voice and Sing”*

ELW 841

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe that God has made me and all creatures;  
has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs,  
my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them,  
and in addition, clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and homestead, wife and children,  
fields, cattle, and all goods; provides me richly and daily  
with all that I need to support this body and life; protects me from all danger, and guards me and  
preserves me from all evil; and all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without  
any merit or worthiness in me. For all this I am to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most  
certainly true.**

(Martin Luther's Small Catechism, First Article of the Creed)

## HYMN

*“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

ELW 879 v. 1, 3, 5

# For the Fruit of All Creation

ELW 679

1. For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2. In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For the gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In the world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spar - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

# Lift Every Voice and Sing

ELW 841



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,  
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.  
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,  
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,  
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last  
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938  
 Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954



# For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW 879

1. For the beau - ty of the earth for hte beau - ty of the skies,  
 2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light:  
 4. For the joy of hy - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent child,  
 5. For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on eartha nd joy in heav'n:

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thought sand mild:  
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Christ, our God to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.  
 Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

DIX  
 77 77 77

## **THE LITANY OF THANKSGIVING**

Holy God, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, our Judge, as nature in the north cycles towards dormancy and death, we thank you for the sustenance of your Word.

**For your Word of life, we give you thanks.**

Grant us the endurance of the Spirit of your Son. Upheld by the voice of your Word, may we persevere with courage, energy, and joy, serving our neighbors faithfully until the end of our days.

**For your Word of power, we give you thanks.**

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word, for calling creation into being, declaring forgiveness from the cross, and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

**For your Word of Life, we give you thanks.**

Your word is a lamp lighting our path, a mirror reflecting our selves, a shield providing us refuge, a fire burning for justice and truth. Your word is sweeter than honey: it nourishes our bodies like milk, it sustains your people like bread. We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.

**For your Word of providence and abundance, we give you thanks.**

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints, and to all the cries of the needy. Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ, that heeding your voice of beauty and power we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

**For your life-giving Word, we give you thanks.**

Abide with us in your Word, O God, that we may speak your blessing to others, today and forever.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Lord in your Mercy

**Hear our Prayer**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"* by Monsell/Willan

Chancel Choir

The FLW Thank Offering boxes will go to support the Women of the ELCA. Other offerings for this evening's worship will be donated to ELCA World Hunger.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray,

**Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name.**

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## DOXOLOGY

*"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

ELW 884

## SENDING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

## HYMN

*"What Feast of Love"*

ELW 487

## SENDING

Go in peace. Encourage one and other in Christ.

**Thanks be to God and we will.**

## POSTLUDE

*"Now Thank We All Our God"* by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

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Preacher/Presider	The Rev. Garrett Struessel
Ushers	Holly Keenan Peggy Shupe
Reader	Char Lemkee
Organist	Gary Elmquist

## Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of quarter and half notes. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." The score ends with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

1. What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?  
 2. What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?  
 3. What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim - son drink from heav - en?

What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
 What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won - drous word is giv - en?  
 What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?

This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!  
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!  
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!