



**St Michael's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Wednesday, November 24, 2021—7:00 p.m.**

**Thanksgiving Eve**

## Welcome Statement

St. Michael's Lutheran Church lives out God's grace and love for all people. Faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we welcome those who have been part of church communities, those who have no previous church experience, and those who have felt excluded by the Church because of their race or ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental capabilities, financial resources, or family circumstances. In this witness we seek reconciliation, healing, and wholeness. As a diverse people we are then empowered by the Holy Spirit to live and work together for God's promised day of justice, peace, and mercy.

In Christ's love, we welcome you!



St. Michael's Lutheran Church is a Reconciling In Christ Congregation.



St. Michael's Lutheran Church is a member of the ELCA.

Worship Activity bags are located at the back of the Sanctuary to keep little fingers and minds busy with worship-themed activities.

The nursery is open! However, it is currently unstaffed. Parents/Guardians are welcome to accompany their child(ren) in the nursery. We ask that you help us provide a safe space for the littles by following the sanitizing instructions in the room after its use. \*Special holidays and festivals will remain staffed; those dates will be indicated in the bulletin\*

We continue to use protocols in worship and in the building to protect children, youth and those who have not yet completed COVID-19 vaccinations. Our protocols will continue to adapt in the weeks and months ahead.

# Wednesday, November 24, 2021

## Thanksgiving Eve

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Welcome to worship on this special evening. Every household is invited to take home a loaf of bread after worship as our gift to you. As you enjoy this small gift of nourishment for your Thanksgiving table, we hope it calls to mind God's provision and care in your life.

Tonight's offering will be received in the large wooden box at the back of the Sanctuary as you enter or leave this space.

Thank you for your generosity.

### +GATHERING+

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

*Prelude on "St. Anne"*

Paul Manz

#### INVOCATION

Blessed be God the Creator, the author of life and source of all goodness.

**Amen.**

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND & THE PEOPLE WITH CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We gather this evening grateful for the gifts of God's creation. We give thanks for the earth and the abundance it holds; for water, for land, for creatures, and sky.

**We thank you, God, for the gift of creation.**

In the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal, "hymn" numbers are found at the top of the page; "page" numbers are found at the bottom of the page.

*God draws us together and dwells within the community*

We gather this evening grateful for the gifts of God's people.  
We give thanks for the creativity, innovation, and care found  
within the Body of Christ.

**We thank you, God, for the gift of community.**

We gather this evening mindful that every community owes  
its existence and vitality to the care of the land and the gifts  
of the generations of people who came before us.

**We thank you, God, for the gift of courageous and  
compassionate ancestors.**

We gather this evening honest and aware that though we  
have much to be grateful for, we also have much to grieve.

For the land we call home, once stolen from indigenous  
peoples.

**Have mercy, O Lord.**

For our country, entrenched in a history of enslaved people.

**Have mercy, O Lord.**

For the divides within our human family and the inequalities  
and hatred those divisions produce.

**Have mercy, O Lord.**

*A brief silence is held.*

God is rich in mercy and abounding in steadfast love.

We receive this mercy as a free gift, and in hope for what is  
possible, we strive to repair relationships and  
understandings. Forgiven and made new, we  
proclaim with grateful hearts,

**Thanks be to God!**

## OPENING HYMN

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*  
ELW 693

*Worship begins with a prayer of mutuality - the presider and the congregation seeking the presence of God with and for one another.*

## THE 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

We praise you, O Holy One,  
**for the provision of food, and shelter, and fellowship,  
and for all other evidence of grace that have been ours.**  
May our hearts always receive such gifts from your hand,  
**with true humility and thankfulness. Amen.**

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*We Gather Together*  
arr. Aaron Humble

**+WORD+**

*God speaks to us through scripture, preaching, silence, and song.*

## PSALM 100

Shout joy to the Lord, all earth,  
**serve the Lord with gladness, enter God's presence  
with joy!**

Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong.  
**God is our shepherd, and we the flock.**

Enter the temple gates, the courtyard with thanks and praise;

**give thanks and bless God's name.**

Indeed the Lord is good!

**God's love is forever, faithful from age to age.**

Written by Mary Oliver

## READING

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happened better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb. (Don't Hesitate)

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Now We Give Thanks*  
Mark Patterson

## READING

**1 Kings 19:3-8**

Then [Elijah] was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went on a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

**HOMILY**    The Rev. Ali C. Ferin & The Rev. Brad Froslee

**HYMN OF THE DAY**                      *For the Fruit of All Creation*  
ELW 679

**+MEAL+**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all  
**And also with you.**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**    *My Shepherd Shall Supply my Need*  
arr. Virgil Thompson

**A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O God of Life, may our feast tomorrow fall like a great hammer blow against the brittle night, shattering the gloom, reawakening our hearts, stirring our imaginations, focusing our vision

on your kingdom of heaven that is to come,  
on your kingdom that is promised,  
on your kingdom that is already, indeed, among us,  
for the resurrection of all good things has already joyfully begun.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Communion will be distributed as you exit the building at either door 4 leading to the parking lot, or the Narthex doors leading to the circle drive.

Please leave your mask on until you are outdoors.

Gluten Free wafers and non-alcoholic wine will be available, simply indicate your request to the communion servers.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At Christ's we are welcomed and fed, nourished for the journey ahead. We go from this place receiving this bread of life and cup of forgiveness.

**Thanks be to God.**

**+SENDING+**

### CLOSING HYMN

*Now Thank We All Our God*  
ELW 840

### POSTLUDE

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



## WORSHIP NOTES

Psalm translation is from the Liturgical Psalter: a faithful and inclusive rendering from Hebrew into contemporary English. Copyright 2014.

Second Reading is written by Mary Oliver. Swan: Poems and Prose Poems. Beacon Press. 2010

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Songs with the abbreviation ELW are found in the ELCA hymnal titled, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

Songs with the abbreviation ACS are found in the new ELCA hymnal supplement titled, *All Creation Sings*.

Songs with the abbreviation GC are found in the GIA hymnal titled, *Gather Comprehensive*.

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## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

**Pastors:** *The Rev. Ali Ferin, The Rev. Brad Froslee*

**Musician:** *Tom Bartsch, organist*

**Special Music:** *Children's Choir,*

*Cory Bock, director*

*Wenshuai Zhang, accompanist*

*St. Michael's Singers,*

*Karen Wilkerson, director*

**Lector:**

**Communion Deacons:**

**Usher:** *Carol Hansen*

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