



**ST. PAUL'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Wednesday, November 24, 2021**  
**Thanksgiving Eve**

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Worship  
1609 Kurtz Avenue ~ Lutherville, MD 21093  
[www.facebook.com/SPLutherville](http://www.facebook.com/SPLutherville) and [www.stpaulslutherville.org](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org)

*Welcome to our sanctuary worship service. If you haven't already done so, take a moment to check-in on social media to share that you are here before silencing any electronic devices, and breathe a bit to center yourself before we begin.*

*Directions from the pastor will invite you to stand or "rise in body or spirit" for that section, also indicated by an asterisk. Our digital assembly may choose to rise or remain seated.*

**For Our Digital Worship Assembly**

Participation: You can find everything you need to participate in the service within the Facebook video description or alongside our website homepage. If you're joining the live feed through Facebook, comment to "say hello" and connect with one another. Feel free to use the "share" button and to help spread the reach of our ministry. If you are joining at the Table to celebrate Communion this day, please have your bread and wine close at hand.

Offering: In addition to sending your gifts to the church, you may also choose to give your offering gift electronically at [www.stpaulslutherville.org](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org). Thank you for your generosity!

**For Our In-Person Worship Assembly**

Social Distancing: As a reminder, we are expecting everyone gathered in this space to follow the social distancing guidelines with which you are familiar: keep at least 6' distance from others, wearing a facemask is optional (but strongly encouraged for those not yet vaccinated), and use hand sanitizer often. You are invited to sing as you wish. Parents, please keep your children with you within your area for the duration of the service. We encourage you to keep a facemask with you to be able to honor others who are choosing to wear one when you greet one another.

Restrooms: The bathrooms outside the Wilkening Room are available for one person at a time (parents may accompany children if needed) - please use the signage on the door to indicate the restroom is occupied. Please give one another space in navigating around the hallway. Masks are required in any of our other buildings, regardless of vaccination status.

Offering: An offering plate is at both doors in the worship space, where you may place your gifts as you come or go from the service. You may also choose to give your offering gift electronically at [www.stpaulslutherville.org](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org). Thank you for your generosity!

# GATHERING

## WELCOME

**PRELUDE: Now Thank We All Our God** by G.F. Luafman

### \*RINGING OF THE BELL

*Please rise in body or spirit at the ringing of the bell.*

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another... 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 SONG: *For the Beauty of the Earth* (ELW 879)**

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### \*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

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.**

## 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.*

A reading from Joel.

<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.**

### 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.*

A reading from First Timothy.

<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.**

**\*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.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] <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**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* (ELW 694)**

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**\*APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## **\*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.

God, you give all people a place at the table. Nurture and encourage campus ministries, new congregations, and workplace chaplaincies. Support all parts of the church that meet people where they are and offer accompaniment through daily challenges and joys. We pray for leaders throughout the whole Church: for our church-wide bishop, Elizabeth, and our local bishop, William. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, you give nourishment to the birds of the air and the lilies of the fields. Sustain all creatures who rely on the earth for sustenance. Water parched ground, dry flooded fields, temper heat waves and frosts, and give sunlight and shade. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, you give wisdom to your people. Enlighten all leaders. Inspire and guide our president, our governor, our local leaders, and all who represent us in our government. Give them patience and perspective to choose wisely for our common good. We pray for the service women and men of our country, and for peace-keepers and peace-makers everywhere. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, you give nourishment to those who hunger. Bring poverty and food insecurity to an end. Give dignity and adequate employment to those who are unemployed and underemployed. Sustain us all at your welcoming banquet of love and justice. We pray for the ministry of our LEAD journey: for our community partners and our neighbors in Lutherville. We pray for this faith community of St. Paul's and our continued commitment to purpose and mission. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, you give community to those who are lonely. Be with our biological families, our chosen families, and our church family as we gather for the Thanksgiving holiday. Send your compassionate presence to those who are lonely, those who are separated or estranged from their families, and those whose loved ones have died. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, you promise to be always with us. We pray for what remains in our hearts and minds. Listen as we offer these additional prayers, concerns, and thanksgivings to you — with our voices, in our hearts, and within this space (*we pause for spoken and silent prayers*)... Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God, you give a feast of endless thanksgiving. We are grateful for the saints gathered at your table who have gone before us. Unite us with them whenever we give thanks to you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

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.**

*You are invited to share the peace with a wave from your seat to those outside of your household group, and to use a greeting or gesture you would like to share within your group.*

**MEAL**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PREPARING THE TABLE**

*If you will be joining in sharing the Meal of Holy Communion, now is the opportunity to prepare by making sure you have what you need close at hand. If you are a part of the In-Person Assembly and do not have what you need at your seat, please carefully make your way to the entrance to see a worship host. If you are a part of the Digital Assembly, now is the opportunity to prepare your home table with bread and cup.*

**\*GATHERING AROUND THE TABLE**

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 our thanks and praise.**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death  
we appeal to you, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace  
and promised an end to injustice and harm.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death  
and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints  
his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine  
and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son:  
teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints. Come, for all are welcome here.

**SHARING THE MEAL**

*For our In-Person Assembly sharing in the Meal of Holy Communion, be careful as you peel back the foil to expose the bread and wine. You may pray or whisper the words "The body of Christ, given for you." as you consume the bread, and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." as you consume the drink.*

*For our Digital Assembly sharing in the Meal of Holy Communion, you may use the words "The body of Christ, given for you." as you share the bread with one another, and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." as you share the cup. You may choose to dip your bread into the cup, or to consume the bread and then drink from the cup.*

*If you are not sharing in the Meal today, please join in reflection and prayer, until we all regather.*

**REFLECTION SONG: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*BLESSING**

May God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✝ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG: *Let All Things Now Living* (ELW 881)**

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**\*DISMISSAL**

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow** by J. Pachelbel

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**OFFERING**

We encourage you to contribute your offering to help sharing in the ongoing mission and work of the church through making an online offering at [www.stpaulslutherville.org](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org). You can also mail your offerings in to the church office - we have a secured mailbox which is checked regularly.

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**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

*Thank you for helping to lead our worship service this holy day!*

Preacher/Presider

The Rev. Dr. Ed Kay

Assisting Minister

Sue DePasquale

Host/Usher

John Musachio

Worship Musician

Robin Schaefer

GATHERING SONG: *For the Beauty of the Earth* (ELW 879)

## For the Beauty of the Earth



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the 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 hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and 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 thoughts and mild:  
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

*Refrain*



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

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.  
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* (ELW 694)**

## Sing to the Lord of Harvest



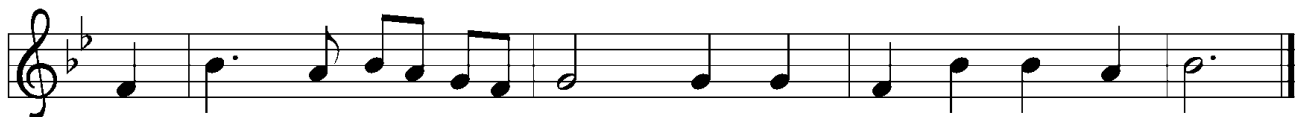
1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;  
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,  
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,



with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;  
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.  
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.



by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;  
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,  
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,



sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.  
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.  
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613

SENDING SONG: *Let All Things Now Living* (ELW 881)

Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and

God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;

who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the

still guides us on to the end of our days.  
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -

fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise

till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.  
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.  
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune  
Text © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company.

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