

Thankoffering of the **WELCA**

Sunday, November 24, 2024

Christ the King Sunday

WELCA Thankoffering Sunday

Today, we share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800s or even earlier. Then, when it seemed that there was not enough money to carry out the work of the church, the women would act together as “cent” or “mite” societies. Each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year in thanksgiving for blessings received. And on occasion, the women would come together as we do today, joining their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds.

This tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings continues. Let us join with the Women of the ELCA in gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come. Let us come, worship the Lord!

GATHERING

WELCOME

(Please stand as you are able)

Thanksgiving for Baptism *(Nancy Sandeen)*

Blessed be the triune + God, who pours out love, justice, and mercy in abundance.

Amen.

Joined by water to Christ and to creation, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

For all gifts of water,

we give you thanks, O God.

For rivers and lakes, for streams and oceans, for healing rains and clean water to drink:

we give you thanks, O God.

For Miriam’s song of liberation on the far bank of the sea, for Isaiah’s invitation to “come and drink, without money and without price,” for Jesus’s baptism and commissioning in the waters of the Jordan, for the Samaritan woman, revived by living water, for your holy river that waters the tree of life:

we give you thanks, O God.

For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, for baptismal waters, for the cleansing of our hearts, for the refreshment of our spirits, for waves of mercy, for justice, rolling like rivers:

we give you thanks, O God.

Blessing, honor, and glory be to you, O God, and eternal gratitude for all your good gifts.

Amen.

OPENING SONG ELW #855 vs.1,4 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

4 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE ELW 858 vs. 4 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Give us courage, O God of Esther, to do what You call us to do.

Do not let us hide in the security of our own comfort, privilege or gender. Help us remember our identity as one of your own; let us not be silent in the face of evil. Unite us in spirit with others who are also your people. Help us prepare our hearts that we might know when and how You would have us act, when and what You would have us speak. May we use whatever power we have to give life to those without power. Give us such confidence in You that we might place our lives in your hands. Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

Reading: Esther 4:13-17

Esther is the story of an unlikely young woman becoming the queen and leading the people. She has hidden the fact of her Jewish identity from her husband, the king. In this scene, the Jewish people are threatened with attack by the king's army. Esthers uncle, Mordecai, has advice for her which she bravely follows to save her people.

¹³ Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, 'Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.' ¹⁵ Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, ¹⁶ 'Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my

maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.’ ¹⁷ Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

Second Reading: Acts 16:11-15

Lydia is the first European in Scripture to be converted to Christianity. The house church that began in her home in Philippi grew to become a community that Paul wrote to with great affection and praise.

¹¹ We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. ¹³ On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.’ And she prevailed upon us.

Third Reading: 2 Timothy: 1:5,3:14-15

Timothy is an important and beloved disciple of Paul. In this letter to Timothy, Paul praises his faith and the women who raised him.

⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

Music: Jesus Loves Me – ELW #595

CHILDREN’S SERMON (Kathleen Kichline)

Music: Lord, Listen to your Children Praying – ELW #752

MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY ELW 419 vs.1,3,11 *For All the Faithful Women*

- 1 For all the faithful women
who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given;
to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness
in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness,
proclaimed your pow’r to save.
- 3 We praise your name for Miriam
who sang triumphantly
while Pharaoh’s vaunted army
lay drowned beneath the sea.
As Israel marched to freedom,
her chains of bondage gone,
so may we reach the kingdom
your mighty arm has won.

11 For Eunice and for Lois,
we sing our thanks and praise.
Young Timothy they nurtured
and led him in your ways.
Raise up in ev'ry household
true teachers of your word
whose lives will bear clear witness
to Christ, our risen Lord.

Last

All praise to God the Father!
All praise to Christ the Son!
All praise to God the Spirit,
who binds the church as one!
With saints who went before us,
with saints who witness still,
we sing glad alleluias
and strive to do your will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
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(Please stand as you are able)

Let us confess our faith in the words of the *(Robin Nelson)*

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 power of 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

With gratitude to God, we remember in prayer our church, our neighbors, and our world.

Silence is kept.

O God, we remember your church across the world. Let your good news be known through many and diverse forms of worship and service. Encourage your faithful people to generosity in all things. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We remember the bounty of creation. In this harvest season, grant us and all creatures sufficient food and water. Heal the earth where it faces drought, flood, fire, and storms. Bless us with the gifts and inclination necessary to participate in the healing of the earth. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We remember the nations of the world and their leaders. Transform the hearts of governments and authorities that compassion and grace overflow from their leadership. Empower us toward acts of charity and advocacy for those who are poor, neglected, threatened by violence, or forced from their homelands. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We remember the struggles of our neighbors. Grant hope and healing to all who are sick, afraid, in pain, or facing transitions. Bless and protect all who serve as caregivers, health care providers, and social workers. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We remember all ministries of this church, and especially Women of the ELCA. Through these organizations, inspire faith, equip leaders, and accomplish works of service and justice. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Accept our thanksgiving for the people you surround us with, especially for those who celebrate their lives and birth this week:

- Tanner Hoang
- Karen Larson
- Liz Hanson
- Lois Hodgson
- Aaron Ortega

enrich them with a sense of joy and grace for yet another year. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all that for which we pray, trusting in your mercy, given for us and for all, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share the Lord's Peace with one another

...

(Please be seated)

MEAL

OFFERING

The Worship/Communion Registration Card may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed.

Thank you for your support of our ministry.

(Please stand as you are able)

OFFERTORY ELW #186 *Create In Me a Clean Heart*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Text: Lutheran Book of Worship

OFFERING PRAYER (Pastor Carl Hoffman)

Gracious God,

We give thanks each time we remember you and your blessings. Receive what we have offered now: our gifts, our time, and our whole selves. Bless our thankofferings and the work of Women of the ELCA that these offerings make possible. Make us good and faithful stewards of your gifts, that all people know the bounty of your love. We pray in the name of Christ,
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 our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving at the Table

All praise to you, glorious God of grace.

Throughout the ages you have blessed us with foremothers of the faith.

With Sarah, we bless you for your gift of life.

With Ruth, we praise you for family and food.

With Miriam, we celebrate our escape from the foe.

Remembering Deborah, we honor the words of your prophets.

Remembering the woman at the well, we laud you for living water.

Remembering Junia, we thank you for those who minister among your people.

One with the daughter of Jairus, we wake to life in you.

With Mary, we magnify your name:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Remembering Martha and Mary, we join Jesus at this meal.

Living, he healed the bleeding woman;

dying, he cared for his mother;

risen, he sent Mary Magdalene in mission.

On the night before he died, he 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.

With Mary, again we magnify your name:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Mighty God of mercy,

as you heard the prayers of Hannah, so now hear us.

Send your Spirit on this bread and wine,

that sharing the body and blood of Christ we become his body in the world.

Send your Spirit on this assembly, that like Phoebe, we serve one another with zeal.

Send your Spirit on the church, that like Anna,

we tell others of your mercy.

Send your Spirit into our hearts, that like Dorcas, we care for the poor and needy.

With Mary, once more we magnify your name:
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

All praise to you, powerful God of peace.
We adore you, our God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
you who mother and feed and comfort us,
today, tomorrow, and forever.
Amen.

PRAYER AT THE TABLE

Let us pray together the prayer our Lord 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**

(Please be seated)

COMMUNION

The presiding minister invites the assembly
Behold, God is making all things new.
Take your place in the new creation.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.
Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship

CONTINUOUS COMMUNION BEGINS

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE ELW #207 *Thankful Hearts and Voices*

Thankful hearts and voices raise;
tell ev'ryone what God has done.

Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice
and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises
and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,

you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING (*Kathleen Kichline*)

Blessing

God has filled the hungry and thirsty with good things:

Let us give thanks to God, for God's mercy endures forever!

God has done wonderful works for all people:

Let us rejoice in God's steadfast love!

God has looked upon us with grace and favor:

Let us remember God's mercy!

God has put into our hearts a song of thanksgiving and freedom:

Let us join our voices in singing our praise!

The God of abundance,
Creator, + Redeemer, and Spirit,
bless you and keep you,
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG ELW 660 vs.1&4 *Lift High the Cross*

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

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DISMISSAL (*Pastor Carl*)

Go in peace. Live with gratitude.

Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America

Sunday, November 24, 2024

Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.

Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748

Monday, November 25, 2024

Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

Andrew, Apostle

Saturday, November 30, 2024

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

From sundaysandseasons.com

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THE DAY

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOR

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A righteous branch springing up from David

Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Strengthen hearts of holiness for the coming of the Lord

Luke 21:25-36

Be alert for the coming of the Son of Man

GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 24, 2024

CHRIST THE KING

Grace-Filled Reign

Popular images of monarchs through the centuries have often emphasized their material wealth, excess riches, crushing power, and military might. Their opulent headwear, jewelry, and beautiful clothing are enough to impress even the wealthiest members of society.

We call Christ a “king” on this festival day of the year, but Christ’s reign is expressed very differently than those of the human rulers around the globe. Compassion, inclusive love, and restoration of justice are markers of God’s kin-dom here on earth. Jesus worked to make things right between God and people, and among us human beings. Today our worship recognizes his unique reign as providing the type of powerful mercy we truly need in our king.

Jesus often used metaphors to illustrate what God’s love and faithfulness look like in our lives: as sheep trust the guidance of their shepherd, we, too, pay attention to the care Jesus provides for us. As Christ the Monarch draws near to us, loves us, cares for us, and accompanies us through all of life’s hard times, we bow before divine mercy and splendor.

Christ may not be a “king” or “queen” according to the usual imperial standards, and perhaps that is for the best. Yet in Jesus God brings that wide-reaching, world-covering love that transforms us. Christ washes us in grace, forgives us generously, and is as close to us as water on our foreheads and bread and wine on our lips. Even when it feels like this kin-dom of God is still too far away, God reminds us of its presence among us already at the baptismal font and around the communion table. These gifts have been here for generations and will continue to comfort us in our struggles: Water! Bread! Wine! Our king providing grace and love for us along life’s way, today and always.

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