Thanksgiving Worship Service
Sunday, November 22, 2026 ~ 9:00am



St. Mary's Lutheran Church
2001-80th Street * Kenosha, WI 53143
www.stmaryslutheran.org
(262)658-3555

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO THANKSGIVING

Loving and Everlasting God,

we come before you with open hearts, overflowing with gratitude for the boundless grace, mercy, and love that you shower upon us. We thank you for the beauty of this world and the wonder of creation that continually points to you.

Thank you for guiding us through each day, providing strength in times of weakness and comfort in sorrow, and for your constant presence that reminds us we are never alone. We are grateful for the challenges we face, for in them we learn, grow, and draw nearer to you.

We give thanks for the gift of community—our spiritual family—who walks with us, bears our burdens, and celebrates alongside us. Help us to be faithful stewards of your creation and to extend the same love and kindness you offer us to all people, especially those who are marginalized, hungry, or in need.

May our hearts remain full of praise and our actions a reflection of your goodness. Strengthen us to live with joyful contentment and to be instruments of healing and justice in your world.

In this and all things, we offer our thanks and praise, now and forever. Amen.

Please stand in body or spirit.

GATHERING SONG "*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*" (see pg. 7)

You may be seated.

PRAYER

God, there are days we do not feel grateful. When we are anxious or angry. When we feel alone. When we see and know injustice. When we do not understand what is happening in the world, or with our neighbors.

We struggle to feel grateful.

But this Thanksgiving, we choose gratitude. We choose to accept life as a gift from you, from the unfolding work of all creation. We choose to be grateful for the earth from which our food comes; for the water that sustains us; and for the air we breathe.

We choose to see our ancestors, those who came before us, and their stories, as a continuing gift of wisdom for us today. We choose to see our families and friends with new eyes, appreciating them for who they are, thankful for our homes whether humble or grand. We will be grateful for our neighbors and strive to love them as we love ourselves. We choose to see the whole planet as our shared commons, the stage of the future of humankind and creation.

God, this Thanksgiving, we do not give thanks. We choose it.

We will make thanks with courageous hearts. When we see your sacred generosity, we become aware that we live in an infinite circle of gratitude. We all are guests at a hospitable table around which gifts are passed and received. We will not let anything opposed to love take over this table. Instead, we choose to open our eyes to see grace and the gifts of life everywhere. In this choosing, we will share gratitude in the world. Thus, with you, and with all those gathered here, we pledge to make thanks.

We ask you to strengthen us in this resolve. Here, now, and into the future. Around this table. Around the table of our nation. Around the table of the earth. Amen.

—Diana Butler Bass

www.progressivechristianity.org

THANKS & PRAISE FOR GOD and CREATION

Scripture Reading: Psalm 148

Please join me in reading this psalm responsively

[1]Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.
[2]Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.
[3]Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.
[4]Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.
[5]Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,
[6]who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.
[7]Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;
[8]fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;
[9]mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
[10]wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;
[11]sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
[12]young men and maidens,
old and young together.
[13]Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
[14]The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

"Singing Promise on the Way" (verse 1) - *Inside cover of the ELW red hymnal*

Schoettler/Seltz, 2025

Responsive Reading

I sit with the velvet cloak of night
Hung round my shoulders
Watching the candlelight,
Listening to the silent world breathing in dreams.
My prayers rise on the thin stream of heat
Rising from the flame
Rising in whispers that pass between the stars
Rising into the ear of the One who never sleeps.
Mercy, comfort, hope: rising into the night.
Peace, protection, healing: rising into the night.
Work, family, friends: rising into the night.
On and on they rise, these quiet words
Tuned to light, even in the deep-dreamed darkness.

These Quiet Words Rise, "Spirit Wheel: Meditations From An Indigenous Elder" by Steven Charleston (Minneapolis: Broadleaf Books, 2023).

Special Music *G. F. Handel's "Thanks Be to Thee", St. Mary's Adult Choir*

THANKS & PRAISE FOR JESUS

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-37

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

"Singing Promise on the Way" (verse 2)

Grace...[is] the force that infuses our lives and keeps letting us off the hook. It is unearned love—the love that goes before, that greets us on the way. It's the help you receive when you have no bright ideas left, when you are empty and desperate and have discovered that your best thinking and most charming charm have failed you...

This is the most profound spiritual truth I know: that even when we're most sure that love can't conquer all, it seems to anyway. It goes down into the rat hole with us, in the guise of our friends, and there it swells and comforts. It gives us second winds, third winds, hundredth winds.

—Anne Lamott, Traveling Mercies(13, 264)

Please stand in body or spirit.

Hymn #838 "Beautiful Savior"

You may be seated.

<u>THANKS & PRAISE FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT</u>

Scripture Readings:

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

John 14:16-19

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

"Singing Promise on the Way" (verse 3)

THANKS & PRAISE FOR A FUTURE WITH HOPE

Scripture Reading:

Romans 8:24-25, 31-39

For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

"Singing Promise on the Way" (verse 4)

Responsive Reading

We are strange conundrums of faithfulness and fickleness.

We cleave to you in all the ways that we are able.

We count on you and intend our lives to be lived for you,
and then we find ourselves among your people
who are always seeking elsewhere and otherwise.

So we give thanks that you are the God
who yearns and waits for us,

and that our connection to you is always from your side,

and that it is because of your goodness
that neither life, nor death,
nor angels, nor principalities,
nor heights, nor depth,
nor anything in creation
can separate us from you.

We give you thanks for your faithfulness,
so much more durable than ours.

Amen.

-Walter Brueggemann, "The God Who Yearns and Waits for Us," Awed to Heaven, Rooted to Earth (135)

Please stand in body or spirit.

Hymn #597 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All are invited to bring bags of food forward to the altar.

You may be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG *"Goodness of God" - A Chord with the Lord, St. Mary's Youth Choir*

Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY HYMN #884 "*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*"

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

You may be seated.

COMMUNION

Please stand in body or spirit.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING SONG Hymn #866 "*We Are Marching in the Light*"

SENDING

We are God's People
Followers of Jesus Christ
Gifted by the Spirit
Go pray! Go love! Go serve!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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THANK YOU FOR SERVING

- PASTOR: *The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick*
- READERS: *Rod Pfeiffer, Julie Schmit, Andy Schroeder, Kevin Larsen, Stephanie Raszkiewicz*
- SOUND/VIDEO: *Art Kotenko*
- MUSICIANS & DIRECTORS: *Dick Sjoerdsma, Deb Black, Bjorn Hanson, Christina Oldani, Adult & Youth Choirs*
- COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: *Patricia Mason, Cheryl Hayes, Andy Schroeder*
- GREETER: *Gretchen Rasch*
- SACRISTY HELP: *Pat Gallo, Jacqie Vranak*

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The altar flowers are given in loving memory of husband, Jim Hammelev on our anniversary (10/19) by his wife, Florence. The cornecopia arrangement is given with joy and thanksgiving for all that God has given us.

- The offering of food will go to the Shalom Center. Monetary offerings will go to Regular Giving.
- Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for fresh pie and conversation!

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There is no Thanksgiving Eve Worship on Wednesday, November 25th. This service replaces that one.

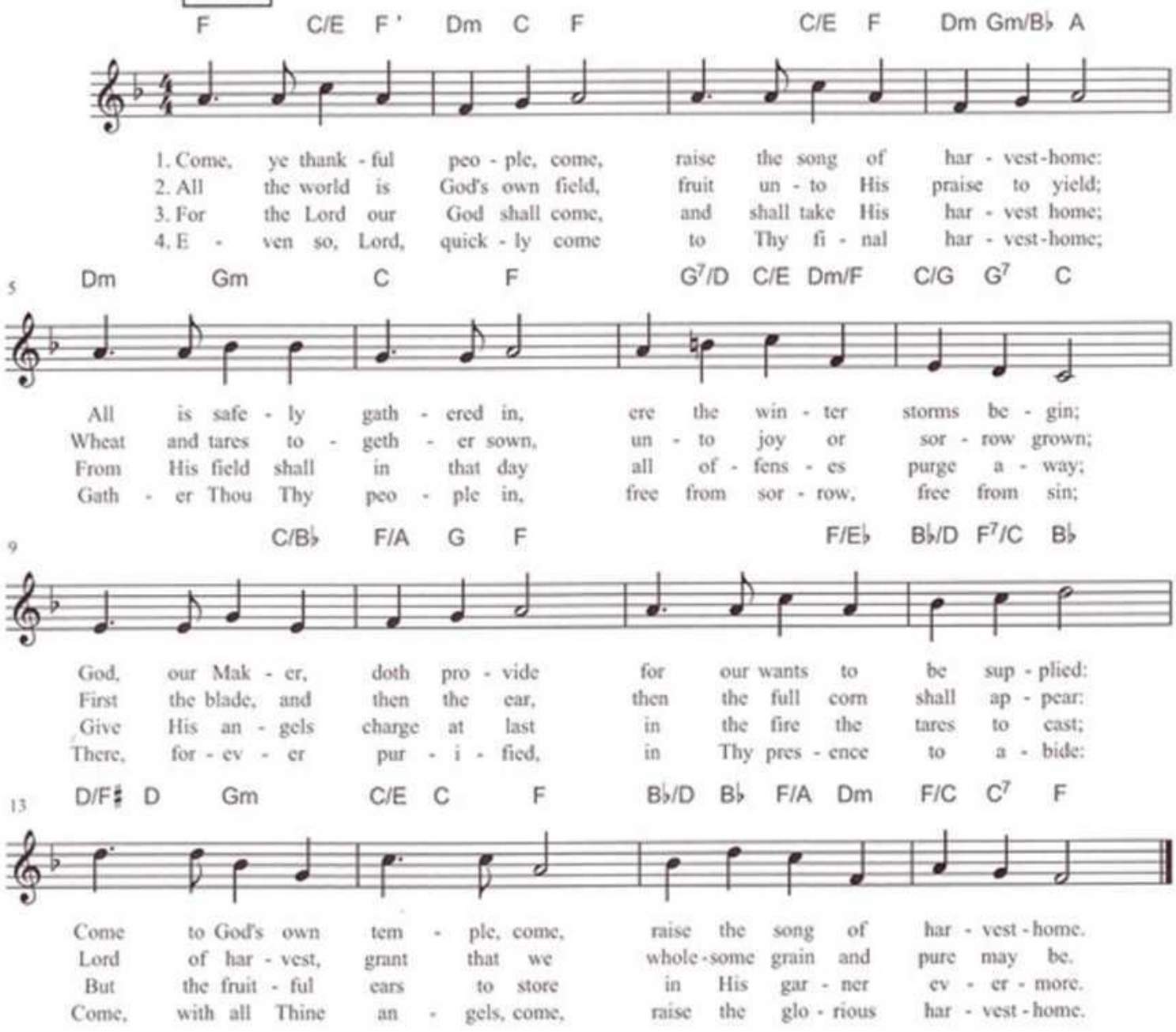
Come Ye Thankful People Come (St. George's Windsor)

(as published by Hope Publishing Company)

Words by
Henry Alford

Music by
George Job Elvey

VERSE



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UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November:

- 28th ~ 4:00pm Advent 1 Lay-Led Holden Evening Prayer (no pastor, no communion)
- 29th ~ 9:00am Traditional Advent 1 Worship with Pr. Dean Willich, Pulpit Supply

December:

- 5th ~ 4:00pm Traditional Advent 2 Worship with Pr. Jordan
- 6th ~ 9:00am Traditional Advent 2 Worship with Pr. Jordan
- 12th ~ 4:00pm Advent 3 Lay-Led Holden Evening Prayer
- 13th ~ 9:00am Traditional Advent 3 Worship with Pr. Jordan/Children's Christmas Program

DECEMBER 13TH—NIGHT OF WORSHIP—ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH -to benefit the ELCA Outreach Center. Soup supper at 5:00pm with worship at 6:00pm.

- 19th ~ 4:00pm Traditional Advent 4 Worship with Pr. Char Guiliani, Pulpit Supply
- 20th ~ 9:00am Traditional Advent 4 Worship with Pr. Jordan
- 24th ~ Christmas Eve Worship: 3:00pm & 5:00pm (identical candlelight services)
- ****Dec. 25th ~ Lakeside Lutheran, 3833 8th Avenue, Christmas Day Worship - 9:00am. Offering collected for Women's and Children's Horizons****
- 26th ~ NO WORSHIP
- 27th ~ 9:00am Lessons & Carols Lay-Led (no pastor, no communion)

January, 2027

- 1st ~ NO WORSHIP
- 2nd ~ 4:00pm Lay-Led Holden Evening Prayer (no pastor, no communion)
- 3rd ~ 9:00am Traditional Worship with Pr. Jordan