

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

November 18, 2021



St. John's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



MINISTERS IN THE SERVICE

Pastor Jake Fain, Peace Lutheran
Deacon Andrew More, Peace Lutheran
The Rev. Ripp Hardaway, Rector, St. John's New Braunfels
The Rev. Lucy Strandlund, Curate, St. John's New Braunfels

READERS

Kurt Andersen-Vie, Peace Lutheran
Lynn Campaigne, St. John's Episcopal Church

OPENING HYMN | Praise to God, Immortal Praise

Hymn 288

The Celebrant greets the people with these words:

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks, O God, we give you thanks, calling upon your Name and declaring all your wonderful deeds. Psalm 75:1

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING | Joel 2:21-27

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! 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. 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. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. 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. 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. 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, *
"The LORD has done great things for them."

The LORD has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

GOSPEL HYMN | We Gather Together (v. 1, 2)

Hymn 433

GOSPEL | Matthew 6:25-33

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL HYMN | We Gather Together (v. 3)

Hymn 433

HOMILY

The Rev. Lucy Strandlund

Prayers | A Litany of Thanksgiving

Book of Common Prayer p. 836

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all God's gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.
We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in our lives, revealing the image of Christ,
We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY | Let all Things Give Thanks, arr. Don Hart

Combined Worship Choir

Our offertory collection today will be given to First Footing Shelter. Make checks payable to St. John's Episcopal Church and designate for First Footing Shelter. Give online at www.nbhousingpartners.org

Thanks to the support of St. John's Episcopal, Peace Lutheran, and other local churches, NB Housing Partners has been operating the First Footing program providing shelter, support, and rapid rehousing for adults experiencing homelessness since February 2021. With your help, we have already provided shelter for over 200 unduplicated individuals for over 7,200 nights of shelter in just 9 short months. On average, our shelter guests have lived in New Braunfels for over 11.5 years-so we are truly helping our neighbors move from homelessness to housing. Even more important than numbers served are the lives we are impacting.

DOXOLOGY

Hymn 380 v. 3

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below:
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B; BCP p. 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

Hymn S-128

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest..*

(The people stand or kneel.)

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (For live stream participants)

Faithful God, **in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though I cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine, I thank you that I have received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may I be renewed to love and to serve; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

BCP p. 365

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. To receive the bread, place one hand over the other with palms facing upward. To indicate that you would like to receive a blessing instead, cross arms over chest. Please let us know if you would like to receive a gluten free wafer.

COMMUNION MUSIC | Give Thanks

Combined Worship Choir

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCP p 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, **you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

May God free you from all fear and worry, that trusting in God's abundant goodness, you may offer praise and thanksgiving with gladness. And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN | Come Ye Faithful People Come

Hymn 290

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.