



THANKSGIVING EVE/DAY

NOVEMBER 26/27, 2025 | 7:00 PM/9:30 AM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

AS WE GATHER

The following is written while the author's husband is battling advanced bladder cancer and severe complications from his chemotherapy treatment.

I leave him for two days to keep my promise to be with my friend Luci Shaw at a convention of Christian booksellers. During my brief time at the Convention Center in Washington I hear different people tell of some good or lucky event and then say, "Surely the Lord was with me." And my hackles rise. My husband is desperately ill, so where is the Lord? ...

Doesn't such an attitude trivialize the activities and concerns of the Maker? Doesn't it imply that God is with us only during the good and fortuitous times and withdraws or abandons us when things go wrong?

I will have nothing to do with a God who cares only occasionally. I need a God who is with us always, everywhere, in the deepest depths as well as the highest heights. It is when things go wrong, when the good things do not happen, when our prayers seem to have been lost, that God is most present. We do not need the sheltering wings when things go smoothly. We are closest to God in the darkness, stumbling along blindly (Madeleine L'Engle, *Two-Part Invention: The Story of a Marriage*).

P Pastor

C Congregation/All

✠ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.

PRELUDE, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN 892 *"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"*

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 106:1; 103:3–4; James 1:17*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

C **His steadfast love endures forever!**

P He forgives all your sins.

C **His steadfast love endures forever!**

P He redeems your life from the pit.

C **His steadfast love endures forever!**

P Every good and perfect gift comes from the Lord.

C **His steadfast love endures forever!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, from Your hand we receive all good gifts and by Your grace we are guarded from all evil. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that, acknowledging with our whole heart Your boundless goodness, we may now and evermore thank and praise You for Your loving-kindness and tender mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 12:1–6*

Isaiah praises God for His incredible forgiveness and salvation.

You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.

²“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in

that day: “Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *selected verses of Psalm 118*

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

C for his steadfast love endures forever!

P Out of my distress I called on the LORD;

C the LORD answered me and set me free.

P The LORD is my strength and my song;

C he has become my salvation.

P I shall not die, but I shall live,

C and recount the deeds of the LORD.

P Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them

C and give thanks to the LORD.

P The stone that the builders rejected

C has become the cornerstone.

P This is the LORD’s doing;

C it is marvelous in our eyes.

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

- P** You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
C **you are my God; I will extol you.**
P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
C **for his steadfast love endures forever!**

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:8–24*

Saint Paul encourages us to live a life of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving.

⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

¹²We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the

fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit.

²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good.

²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 895 *“Now Thank We All Our God”*

HOLY GOSPEL *John 11:32–44*

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, proclaiming and demonstrating that He is “the resurrection and the life.”

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also

weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said,

“Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

SERMON HYMN 420 “*Christ the Life of All the Living*” (vv. 1–3, 6–7)

SERMON

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering:

VOLUNTARY “*Sing to the Lord of Harvest*” setting by Nancy M. Raabe
(See hymn 893.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

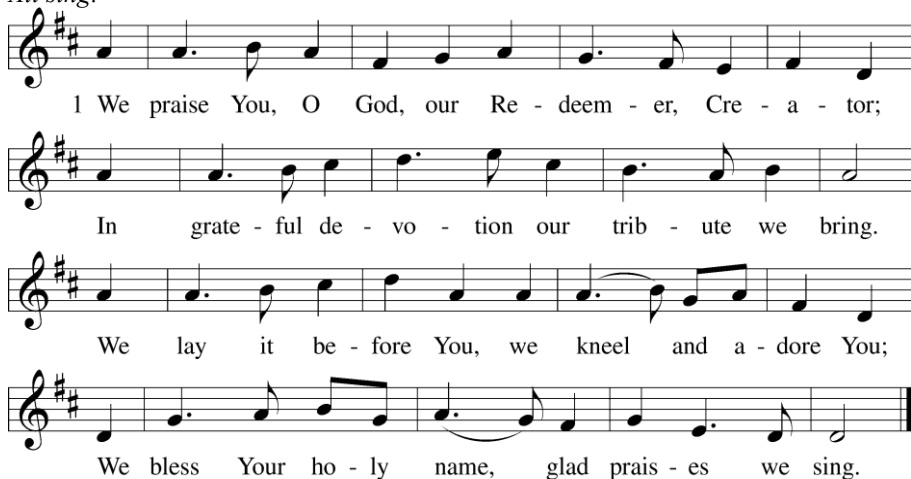
P Gracious God, Your mercies are new every morning. Continually provide us with all we need to support this body and life, and grant that we would receive Your gifts with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Gracious God, You cause the rain to fall on the righteous and the unrighteous, and You make the sun to shine on evildoers as well as those who do good. Spare Your people from drought and famine, that the land might produce a good harvest and that Your people might share Your bounty to feed this hungry world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

All sing:



I We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.

P Gracious God, You have sent us forth in Your name as instruments of hope and love to a world in need. Bless the good work of all ministries of human care, that Christ would be made known through their works of mercy here and throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious God, You are the Giver of life. Teach us to respect and nurture the lives of all people, especially the unborn, those born with disability or infirmity, and those for whom death draws near. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

All sing:

**We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o’ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

P Gracious God, You have given us Your Word and Sacraments. Grant us grace to value these heavenly treasures above all else, that You would ever be the source of our greatest joy, the true and abiding light of our lives, and our constant consolation in every season of life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious God, we remember the saints of old who loved and served You, and we imitate them in commending ourselves and all for whom we pray to Your loving hand, trusting You to grant us all things needful for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer. ►**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C Amen.

All sing:

With voices united our praises we offer

And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.

To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

C 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.

CLOSING SENTENCES

P For all the gifts that God has given,

C thanks be to God.

P For all the sins Christ has forgiven,

C thanks be to God.

P For all the Spirit's faithful guiding,

C thanks be to God.

P For faith and hope and love abiding,

C thanks be to God.

P For all our triune God's providing,

C thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN 891 *"O Light Whose Splendor" (Wednesday, 7 pm)*

CLOSING HYMN 813 *"Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng" (Thursday, 9:30 am)*

SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*

Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Claire Martens, Rachel Martens, *Trumpet (Wednesday)*

Titus Drefs, *Recorder*

Bryce Strobel, Evan Rankin, *Acolytes (Wednesday)*

Ben Kuecker, Lane Brackman, *Acolytes (Thursday)*

Advent and Christmas at St. Paul's 2025

For our full holiday schedule, visit stpaulconcordia.org/advent-christmas.

SUNDAYS IN ADVENT

November 30; December 7, 14, 21 | 8:00 and 10:30 am

Worship at the GSCC Chapel Sundays at 9:30 am.

ADVENT FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL

November 30 | 9:15 – 10:15 am

Presented by our Family Life Ministry Team in the school gym

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT

December 3, 10, 17 | 10 am and 7 pm

A meal is served at 5:30 pm in the school gym, and evening services include a special children's message and will be preceded by an Advent/Christmas hymn sing.

DECORATE THE SANCTUARY

Saturday, December 6 | 8:30 am

CHRISTMAS EVE

Children's Christmas Service | 6 pm

Candlelight Lessons and Carols | 9:30 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Worship with Holy Communion | 9:30 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Worship with Holy Communion | 7 pm



"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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