

Thanksgiving Eve Vespers Service
November 22, 2023
Heritage Lutheran Church
Apple Valley, MN
6:30 p.m.



1. Welcome

2. The Confession Of Sin and Absolution:

Pastor Dearly Beloved, we have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

Congregation Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

3. Hymn #63 “Now Thank We All Our God”

1 Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices,
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

2 Oh may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore!
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

4. The Versicles and Gloria Patri

Pastor O Lord, Open my lips.

♪ **Congregation** And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

Pastor Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

♪ **Congregation** Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: forevermore, Amen. Alleluia.

5. Psalm 100 (*read responsively by whole verse*)

¹ Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

² Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

³ Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

6. Scripture Lessons: *Deuteronomy 8:10-18; Philippians 4:10-20; Luke 17:11-19*

Deuteronomy 8:10-18

¹⁰ And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. ¹¹ “Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, ¹² lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴ then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵ who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty

rock, ¹⁶ who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. ¹⁷ Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' ¹⁸ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Philippians 4:10-20

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶ Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem he was passing along between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³ and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." ¹⁴ When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; ¹⁶ and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? ¹⁸ Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹ And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

7. A Responsory page 122

Pastor O Lord, have mercy upon us.

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to You, O Lord!

8. Hymn #264 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

1 Jesus, priceless Treasure, Source of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me.
Ah, how long I've panted And my heart hath fainted, Thirsting, Lord, for Thee.
Thine I am, O spotless Lamb! I will suffer naught to hide Thee, Naught I ask beside Thee.

2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking, Ev'ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
Fires may flash And thunder crash; Yea, and sin and hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.

3 Hence, with earthly treasure! Thou art all my Pleasure, Jesus, all my Choice.
Hence, thou empty glory! Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross Shall not from my Savior move me Since He deigns to love me.

4 Fare thee well that errest, Thou that earth preferrest, Thou wilt tempt in vain.
Fare thee well, transgression, Hence, abhorred possession, Come not forth again.
Past your hour, O pride and pow'r, Worldly life, thy bonds I sever, Fare thee well forever!

5 Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather, Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear, Thou art still my purest Pleasure, Jesus, priceless Treasure.

9. Sermon "The Secret Of Contentment" *Philippians 4:10-20*

10. The Offering

11. The Versicle & Canticle

Pastor Let my prayers rise before you as incense:

♪ **Congregation** And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

12. The Nunc Dimittis

♪ **Congregation** Lord, now You let your servant depart in peace according to Your Word

For my eyes have seen Your Salvation which you have prepared before the face of all people.

A Light to lighten the Gentiles; and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end, Amen.

13. The Prayers, beginning with The Kyrie

♪ **Congregation** Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

14. The Lord's Prayer

♪ **Congregation** 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.

15. The Words of Institution (p.79)

Pastor Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

16. Distribution of The Lord's Supper

17. Hymn of Thanksgiving #64 "Praise The Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him"

1 Praise the Lord, ye heav'ns, adore Him;
Praise Him, angels, in the height;
Sun and moon, rejoice before Him;
Praise Him, all ye stars of light.
Praise the Lord, for He hath spoken;
Worlds His mighty voice obeyed;
Laws which never shall be broken
For their guidance He hath made.

2 Praise the Lord, for He is glorious;
Never shall His promise fail;
God hath made His saints victorious;
Sin and death shall not prevail.
Praise the God of our salvation;
Hosts on high, His power proclaim;
Heav'n and earth, and all creation,
Laud and magnify His name.

18. Luther's Evening Prayer

Congregation In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray You to forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

19. The Benedicamus & Benediction

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to God.

Pastor The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

20. Closing Hymn #565 "All Praise To Thee, My God This Night"

1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night
For all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
Beneath Thy own almighty wings.
Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son
The ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, myself, and Thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

2 Teach me to live that I may dread
The grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die that so I may
Rise glorious at the awe-full Day.
O may my soul on Thee repose,
And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
Sleep that shall me more vig'rous make
To serve my God when I awake.

3 When in the night I sleepless lie,
My soul with heavenly thoughts supply;
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
No pow'rs of darkness me distress.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Announcements

Pie Social – The Outreach Board is hosting a Pie Social following the service tonight. Please stay after the service and enjoy some pie and fellowship.

Advent Midweek Worship - Advent begins Sunday, December 3rd. We will have three midweek Advent worship services. We will be having supper before the services on December 13th & 20th starting at 5:15 pm.

Bazaar Thank You - Thank you to everyone who helped make the 48th Annual Bazaar a success!!

Meditations Available –There are copies of the meditations on the welcome desk.

Women's Bible Study – The Women's Monday evening Bible Class meets in the fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m. In person and online options are available. Contact Ruth Braun if you would like to join the class.

Fellowship - There is a sign-up sheet on the volunteer board if you would like to sign up to provide fellowship snacks between services.

Seminary Christmas - Again this year, we, as a congregation, will be bringing gifts to the seminary students and their families. Please take a post-it for a gift if you would like to help out. Please put your gifts in the old kitchen. Gift cards can be put in the office or mailbox #9. If you have any questions, please talk to Rhonda Eisenbeis. Gifts are due December 3.

Call Process – In keeping with the timeline for introducing grades K-2 to our school, the council has sent our call form to the synod. We expect a call list in 2 weeks and plan to have a call meeting on December 3.

If members of the congregation have recommendations for the call list, please submit those names to the school board (schoolboard@heritagelutheran.org) by November 26. The council asks that before you submit a name(s) that:

1. The candidate is a member of ELS/WELS.
2. The candidate is qualified to teach grades K-2.
3. You speak to the candidate to assure that he/she is willing to be on the call list.

The council asks for our prayers as they continue to do the work of educating the Lambs at Heritage. Thank you.

Lunch Bunch Volunteers – We are looking for volunteers to help with Lunch Bunch on Tuesdays and Fridays. This would be the second person helping out and eating lunch with our wonderful preschoolers.

