

19th Sunday after Pentecost
Living Faith Lutheran Church, Sechelt, BC
October 10, 2020
Thanksgiving Sunday

Preservice Music/Welcome/Announcements

GATHERING

Gathering Song #693 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

- 1 Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit unto God's praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.
- 3 Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified, in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home!

Greeting May the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit be with you today and all your days. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, our Father and Mother, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Companion. **Amen.**

WORD

*The response to the call “Word of God. Word of Life” is **Thanks be to God.***

First Lesson Deuteronomy 8:7-18

⁷For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that has been given to you.

¹¹Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep the commandments, the ordinances, and the statutes, which I am commanding you today. ¹²When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. The LORD made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, "My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth." ¹⁸But remember the LORD your God, for it is the LORD your God who gives you power to get wealth, in order to confirm the covenant that the LORD swore to your ancestors, just as the LORD is doing today.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written,

"God scatters abroad, God gives to the poor;
God's righteousness endures forever."

¹⁰The One who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!

Word of God. Word of Life.

Lesson Hymn #740 "God of the Sparrow" (*see next page*)

God of the Sparrow



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -



stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 gal How does the crea - ture say Care



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life

5 God of the neighbor
 God of the foe
 God of the pruning hook
 How does the creature say Love
 How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
 God near at hand
 God of the loving heart
 How do your children say Joy
 How do your children say Home

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*The response to the announcement of the Gospel reading is **Glory to you, O Lord.**
 The response at the close of the reading is **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Holy Gospel Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵"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? ²⁶Look 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? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But 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? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

The same reading as paraphrased by Dr. Eugene Peterson in "The Message"

²⁵⁻²⁶ "If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to God than birds.

²⁷⁻²⁹ "Has anyone by fussing in front of the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? All this time and money wasted on fashion—do you think it makes that much difference? Instead of looking at the fashions, walk out into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They never primp or shop, but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them.

³⁰⁻³³ "If God gives such attention to the appearance of wildflowers—most of which are never even seen—don't you think God will attend to you, take pride in you, do the best for you? What I'm trying to do here is to get you to relax, to not be so preoccupied with *getting*, so you can respond to God's *giving*. People who don't know God and the way God works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how God works. So steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

³⁴ "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.

This is the good news of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day #765 "Lord of All Hopefulness"

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
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Prayers of Intercession

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need saying "Hear us, O God" and responding,

Your mercy is great. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you send from your abundance the people, talents, and resources needed for all the ministries of your church. We give thanks for the work you have accomplished through your people, and we pray for your continued blessings in our ministry together with believers all around the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bountiful God, you feed us through the richness of the land, water, sunlight, and ample crops. Bless all those who cultivate the land to bring forth its bounty, especially farmers and migrant workers. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, you order our lives by your providence. We give you thanks for laws, infrastructure, and leadership that structure and support our human endeavours. Align our purposes with your own, that all our undertakings might bring you glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you open our hearts in compassion for one another. We give you thanks for the care and healing received through the hands and feet of your servants. Send us to love those most in need of your protection and mercy (*especially those critical care workers who watch over the sick and the dying and do so as your hands and feet. We also bring before you the names and faces and needs of those known to us or known only to you who suffer in body, mind or spirit. . .*) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hospitable God, you connect and strengthen us through meals and conversation with family and friends. In this time of thanksgiving, steer us from passive receiving to active response, from old quarrels to reconciliation, from overconsumption to true gratitude and from worry about tomorrow to joy in the gift of today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the love and care we have received from saints who have gone before us, particularly our loved ones whose absence from us still brings feelings of sadness and loss, but whose lives and memories bring joy and thanksgiving. By their example, enrich the generosity of our witness to others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us all manner of gifts from your good creation, including the gifts of our own lives for which we give thanks today. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Teacher, Master and Friend. **Amen.**

MEAL

God is with us always and everywhere. In this meal, that holy presence is made both specific and universal. It is specific because it is given to us in the simple gifts of the earth, and it is universal by being made known to all through our sharing with others the blessings we ourselves have received. With that promise of God's presence and power at work in, with and through us, we give thanks for these gifts of bread and wine and for the gifts of our own lives.

Prayer over the gifts of bread and wine

God be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift your hearts to heaven. **We lift them up with joy.**
Let us give thanks to our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father (Mother) in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Fraction (*Breaking of the Bread*)

The gifts of God for the beloved children of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Invitation to the Table

Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

Hymn #681 "We Plow the Fields and Scatter" (*played while the meal is shared*)

All are invited to pray these words of thanks and praise before, during or after receiving the elements through which forgiveness, peace and grace are given. Those who prefer not to receive a wafer into their open and outstretched palms are asked to cross their arms and receive a blessing

1. We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand,
who sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain *All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above.
We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.*

- 2 You only are the maker of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star.
The winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children, you give our daily bread. *Refrain*
- 3 We thank you, our creator, for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,
but what you most would treasure—our humble, thankful hearts. *Refrain*

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction

Mothering God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Sending Song #679 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

- 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
 For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
 For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
 future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

- 2 In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
 In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
 In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
 in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
 For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
 For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember to care for and share with the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude