



## PLUM Worship Service

### THANKSGIVING EVE

Wednesday, November 25, 2020, 7 PM

PRELUDE      Thanksgiving Medley

WELCOME and PRAYER REQUESTS

#### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
healer of our every ill, source of unending mercy. **Amen.**

Embraced in enduring grace and good hope,  
let us turn again to God,  
confessing the truth about ourselves.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**we come before you, beloved but broken.**

**We have not always treated others  
as we would want them to treat us.**

**We have not always called out injustice and abuse.**

**We have not always been kind to ourselves.**

**We have not always taken care of the world  
we share with other living creatures.**

**Remind us of who we are,**

**beloved children bathed in your love.**

**Renew us by your Spirit to live as your holy people,  
bringing healing to the brokenness around us. Amen.**

At every moment you are held in existence by the love of  
God renewed by the Spirit within and among you,  
and made alive again in Christ.

Receive this assurance in Jesus' name:

you are ☩ forgiven and freed

to live for the healing of the world. **Amen.**

#### HYMN      Praise and Thanksgiving

1 *Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer  
for all things living, you have made good:  
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.*

2 *God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,  
that with our neighbor we may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,  
harvesting, milling for daily bread.*

3 *Father, providing food for your children,  
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share  
one with another, so that, rejoicing  
with us, all others may know your care.*

4 *Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,  
freely confessing your gracious hand.  
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;  
your love sustaining showers the land.*

#### GREETING

Beloved of God, called to be saints:

Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

PRAYER      Video

#### WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

#### FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 8:7-18

*Times of abundance tempt us to forget God and rely on our own power and resources. But God is the one who took Israel out of Egypt, led and fed them in the wilderness, brought them into the land, and gave them power to be productive. To thank this God is to remember and proclaim God's deeds.*

<sup>7</sup>For 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, <sup>8</sup>a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, <sup>9</sup>a 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. <sup>10</sup>You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

<sup>11</sup>Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. <sup>12</sup>When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, <sup>13</sup>and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you

have is multiplied, <sup>14</sup>then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, <sup>15</sup>who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, <sup>16</sup>and 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. <sup>17</sup>Do not say to yourself, “My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.” <sup>18</sup>But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 100** *The Psalm for the day is read responsively.*

<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all you lands!

<sup>2</sup>Serve the LORD with gladness; come into God’s presence | with a song.

<sup>3</sup>**Know that the LORD is God, our maker to whom | we belong;**

**we are God’s people and the sheep | of God’s pasture**

<sup>4</sup>Enter the gates of the LORD with thanksgiving and the | courts with praise;

give thanks and bless God’s | holy name

<sup>5</sup>**Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is | everlasting,**

**whose faithfulness endures from | age to age.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

*Christian fellowship involves sharing with those in need.*

*Here Paul is gathering a collection for the church in Jerusalem from all the Gentile churches he helped found.*

*We can be extravagant in our giving because God is extravagant in providing for our lives.*

<sup>6</sup>The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup>Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And 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. <sup>9</sup>As it is written,

“He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup>He 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. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; <sup>12</sup>for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to

God. <sup>13</sup>Through 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, <sup>14</sup>while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19**

*A Samaritan leper becomes a model for thanksgiving. He does not take for granted the kindness shown to him but takes time to thank Jesus and to glorify God.*

*The gospel is announced.* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>11</sup>On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup>they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” <sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. <sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? <sup>18</sup>Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

**PASTOR SUE DEVINE**

**HYMN Give Thanks**

**1 Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**2 And now let the weak say, “I am strong,”  
let the poor say, “I am rich,”  
because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now let the weak say, “I am strong,”  
let the poor say, “I am rich,”  
because of what the Lord has done for us.**

(Repeat verses 1 and 2 once)

**Give thanks!** (3 times)

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

*At this time, we offer ourselves to God—our physical resources and our whole life—recognizing that all we are and all we have are God's given to us and for which we are stewards. If you have a monetary offering for your congregation, please send it or deliver it to the church.*

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord **Amen.**

## 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.

*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. 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.**

We pray for leaders in government at every level, for police and firefighters, and for judges and attorneys, that all in authority justly use power and promote peace. 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 mercy (*especially*). 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, and from overconsumption to true gratitude. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, we give thanks for the love and care we have received from saints who have gone before us. 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 Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as the Lord 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. Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**BENEDICTION** 17th Century Puritan Sermon

Please be gentle with yourself and others.

We are all children of chance,

And none can say why some fields blossom

While others lay brown beneath the harvest sun.

Take hope that your season will come.

Share the joy of those whose season is at hand.

Care for those around you.

Look past your differences.

Their dreams are no less than yours,

Their choices in life, no more easily made.

And give.

Give in any way you can.

Give in every way you can.

Give whatever you possess.

Give from your heart.

To give is to love.

To withhold is to wither.

Care less for the size of your harvest  
than for how it is shared,

And your life will have meaning

And your heart will have peace. In Christ,

**Amen.**

**HYMN** **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

*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.*

*Praise the Father. Praise the Son. Praise the Holy Spirit.*

(Repeat all above 2 times.)

*All our praise. All our worship. All our praise.*

## DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE Now Thank We All Our God

- 1 *Now thank we all our God  
with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done,  
in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers' arms,  
has blest 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.*  
  
*the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heav'n adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore. Amen!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and GOD SIGHTINGS

### COFFEE HOUR

#### PLUM Pastors:

The Reverend John Gropp	412-680-7867
The Reverend Brenda Henry	412-390-8005
The Reverend Susan Devine	412-496-4889
The Reverend Paul Koch	773-848-1470
Vicar Mandy Gilberti	814-241-8150

If you are not already connected to one of our congregations and would like to support our ministry, please send donations to:

**Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries**  
405 Kennedy Avenue, Duquesne, PA 15110



## Thank You, LORD!

### Thanksgiving's Prerequisite: Humility

True thanks-giving requires humility. Our modern culture encourages us once a year to "be thankful" but seldom if ever says to whom. While there may be valid reasons in a diverse culture to avoid words and themes not all could embrace, the result is often a "thankfulness" that is, in fact, self-congratulation and self-satisfaction. It is then too easy to thank our political or economic systems, our national work ethic, or our favored-nation status. If at heart we believe we deserve the good we enjoy, we cannot truly be thankful to the giver and source of all we have and are. Without the humility to admit that everything, down to our most recent breath, is grace, a gift from our loving God, we are like the rich farmer in Luke 12:13-21, of whom God says, "You fool!"

Humility is noticeably absent in political campaigns. Self-congratulation is the norm. And yet, in 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Paul reminds us, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity." It also takes humility on our part to pray for flawed, human politicians who are willing to endure the degrading and exhausting process our elections inflict, in order to serve the larger, common good. People, institutions, friends, families, jobs, and circumstances do not need to be perfect or exemplary for us to be thankful for them. On this national holiday many gather for Thanksgiving worship in church settings that are strife- or tension-filled, in a culture that is deeply divided, in a nation long at war, and around family meals where hurts long past are still carried as burdens. It takes humility, grace, and love to be genuinely thankful in our real-life circumstances.

Please join friends from PLUM for  
**Advent Family Bible Study on Zoom**

This study starts December 1, 2020,  
**Tuesdays at 1 pm**  
and the same study will be offered on  
**Thursday evenings at 7 pm.**

We will explore the meaning behind the four candles of the Advent Wreath: **HOPE FAITH JOY LOVE**