

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
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Church: (510) 793-6285

November 18, 2018
10:00 AM, Thankoffering Sunday
Ministers: The People of Holy Trinity
Church: (510) 793-6285
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org



November 18, 2018

WELCOME TO THE STORY

2018 Thankoffering Service

Women of the Lutheran Church have been gathering in the setting of Thankoffering services since the early 1900s. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, meeting together as faithful women joyfully giving thanks and praise for what God has given to us.

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

A Story that Invites Us

Singing Bowl

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

PRELUDE . . . “Cry out Your Name”

Verse

Lord I worship You
With all that I have, with all that I am
Lord I worship You
With all of my strength, with everything
Let it be a sweet aroma to You
As I sing this song with the breath You gave me

Chorus

And I cry out Your name
That’s why I’m created, that’s why I’m created

And I cry out Your name
As a sign to the ones who don't believe
And I cry out Your name
So the rocks will be silent, the rocks will be silent
And I cry out Your name unashamed

Repeat Verse

Repeat Chorus Twice

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION TO THANKOFFERING SUNDAY

Please Stand

LITANY FOR GATHERING

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

All: O Lord my God, you are very great.

L: Today brings all we need to praise our loving God.

All: Creator, you have made us in your image.

L: Today brings all we need to live in peace and purpose.

All: Redeemer, you have called us to new life.

L: Today brings all we need to live abundantly.

All: Renewer, you have brought us together to sing your praise.

L: Today brings together many generations who grow together in faith and affirm and support one another.

All: Companion, you guide us to your beloved community.

L: Today brings a world in need of healing and wholeness.

All: Healer, you inspire us to ministry and action.

L: For the church, the society and the world,

All: Lord our God, we humbly enter into worship.

L: Prepare our hearts.

All: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism.

P: Our thanksgiving rises to you, O God, on the wings of song and the joy of dance.

All: When we are fearful of giving expression to our thanks, forgive us!

P: Our thanksgiving finds expression, O God, when the disadvantaged are identified and the lowly ones affirmed.

All: When we are apathetic about encouraging the downhearted and supporting the weak, forgive us!

P: Our thanksgiving comes home to us, O God, when our way of life, our health, or our chance of fulfillment takes a turn for the better.

All: When we are without hope of change, when we will not see the light, forgive us!

P: Our thanksgiving breaks barriers, O God, breaks through the limitations of nation, race, gender and status.

All: When we keep ourselves to ourselves, when fear or apathy prevents us from taking risks, forgive us!

P: Our thanksgiving finds a focus, O God, in the person of Jesus Christ.

All: When we fail to see Jesus' image in the marginalized ones today, when we hang back from following Jesus' way, forgive us!

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Thanksgiving calls us to repentance, O God.

All: Thanksgiving becomes a reality, as old challenges are squarely faced, as new insights are taken to heart, as we find fresh courage to go in a faithful direction.

P: God's peace will be our peace from this moment on.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

SONG . . . "Thankful"

Verse 1

I like to think about the goodness of the Lord
He gives me everything I need and so much more
So I just wanna lift my hands and say that I love him
I just wanna lift my heart in praise!

Chorus

I wanna be thankful. I wanna be grateful
I wanna remember everything
that the Lord has done
I wanna be thankful, I wanna be grateful
I wanna be, I wanna be, I wanna be

Repeat Verse 1

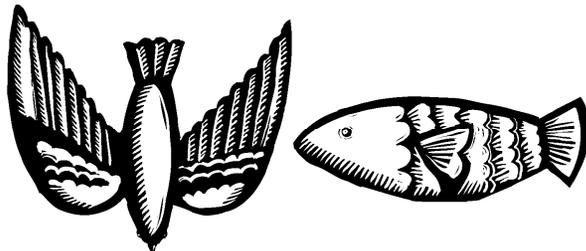
Repeat Chorus twice

I wanna be, I wanna be, I wanna be, I wanna be,
I wanna be, I wanna be, I wanna be

GREETING

*P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

All: And also with you.



LITANY OF MANY GENERATIONS

P: For the many generations, we give thanks to you, O God.

All: For the many generations, we give thanks to you, O God.

L: We give thanks for Eve,

All: God be praised.

P: Deborah and Esther,

All: God be praised.

L: Ruth and Naomi,

All: God be praised.

P: For the many generations, we give thanks to you, O God.

All: For the many generations, we give thanks to you, O God.

L: For the mother of our Lord,

All: God be praised.

P: And Mary Magdalene,

All: God be praised.

L: Mary and Martha,

All: God be praised.

P: The Samaritan woman,

All: God be praised.

L: All who walked with Jesus,

All: God be praised.

P: For the many generations, we give thanks to you, O God.

All: For the many generations we give thanks to you, O God.

L: All who died for faith,

All: God be praised.

P: All who vowed to serve you,

All: God be praised.

L: Florence Nightingale,

All: God be praised.

P: Teresa of Avila,

All: God be praised.

L: Katharina von Bora,

All: God be praised.

P: All renewers of your church,

All: God be praised.

L: For the many generations, we give thanks to you, O God.

All: For the many generations. We give thanks to you, O God.

P: For Harriet Tubman,

All: God be praised.

L: Sojourner Truth,

All: God be praised.

P: All renewers of society,

All: God be praised.

L: For our mothers and daughters,

All: God be praised.

P: Our sisters and family,

All: God be praised.

L: Generations to come,

All: God be praised.

P: For the many generations, we give thanks to you, O God.

All: For the many generations, we give thanks to you, O God.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Renewing God, pour out your power and come. In the waters of baptism you claim us and call us to be your beloved children.

All: May water be our ever-present sign that you ever make all things new. Refresh us with the good news of Christ's love and anoint us with your Holy Spirit, that we might know the fullness of the new life that you prepare for us in your kingdom. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Be Seated

FIRST READING . . . Joel 2:21-27

The prophet Joel understood that a locust plague that ravaged the land of Judah was God's judgment on the people, whom he then called to repentance. Today's reading points beyond the judgment to a time when the Lord will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.

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.

SECOND READING . . . 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people, including rulers (who were pagans rather than Christians). We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.

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. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all; this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

L: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE

All: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
 go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
 life. Al - le - lu - ia!

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter.

All: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL . . . Mark 13:1-8

In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.

As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

P: The Gospel of the Risen Christ.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN’S TIME . . . Pastor Tim

Please Stand

SONG . . . “Word of God Speak”

Verse 1:

I’m finding myself at a loss for words,
And the funny thing is, it’s okay
The last thing I need.... is to be heard,
But to hear what you would say.
Word of God speak.

Chorus:

Would you pour down like rain,
Washing my eyes to see
Your majesty, to be still and know
That You’re in this place?
Please let me stay and rest in Your holiness.
Word of God speak.

Verse 2:

I’m finding myself in the midst of You,
Beyond the music, beyond the noise.
All that I need is to be with You,
And in the quiet, hear Your voice.
Word God of speak

Chorus

Ending:

Would you pour down like rain,
Washing my eyes to see
Your majesty, to be still and know
That You’re in this place?
Please let me stay and rest in Your holiness.
I’m finding myself at a loss for words
And the funny thing is, it’s okay

Be Seated

MESSAGE . . . *Pastor Tim*

A Story that Feeds Us

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: Sisters and brothers in Christ, we have received much from God, grace, mercy, abundance, the love of Christ, and the gift of life itself.

All: **In our worship, we praise God and give God thanks for these gifts. Let us now offer what we can as a way of saying, “Thank you.” In gratitude for God’s generosity, let us share God’s abundance with one another.**

THANKFUL OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG . . . “Give Thanks”

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son
(Repeat)

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)

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son

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
Give Thanks

Please Stand

OFFERING RESPONSE

Refrain

All: As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- L: God of hope and promise, fill us with your joy, that we might live in deepest gratitude for your manifold blessings.
- All: Be our rock and our sure foundation, that we might have the courage to proclaim your good news in a world filled with fear and frustration.**
- L: Multiply our gifts, that they might feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bring your blessings to the world.
- All: In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- L: With the whole people of Christ Jesus, let us call upon God for the sake of the church, the world and all in need of prayer.
- L1: God who made all things good, you create us to be caretakers and stewards in your creation. You equip us to provide for the people, places and ministries that you have entrusted to our care. Draw us together in the light of faith and hope so that we may recognize our calling to this work. We pray in abundance,
- All: Creator, draw us in.**
- L2: God who blesses our labor, you light our paths with the histories of women who acted boldly on their faith to change the world. Bring their influence to our attention and their stories to our lips and ears. May we see in them our own potential to live boldly. We pray in abundance,
- All: Creator, draw us in.**
- L3: God who provides, you endow us with all we need to nurture, harvest and share the fruits of creation. In this abundance, direct our eyes and feet to our neighbors who are on the margins, both near and far. Give us curiosity and courage to live into the fullness of our communities. We pray in abundance,
- All: Creator, draw us in.**
- L4: God who was and is and will be, through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Women of the ELCA, you have called us more deeply into relationship with you and the world. Bless every church, everywhere, that through our work, all may know your grace and accept your call to love one another. We pray in abundance,
- All: Creator, draw us in.**
- L: God of all, hear now the prayers of our heart said either silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: We pray in abundance,

All: Creator draw us in.

L: God who reaches every people, turn our hearts to see those with us now, gathered at this Thankoffering service to give thanks and praise to you. Urge us on to the fullness of life, in the name of Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.



BLESSING OF MANY BREADS

P: Our God is with you.

All: And also with you.

P: We bring RYE BREAD to our table today. It is the staple bread of the laboring class. Let it symbolize for us all who are unemployed and seeking jobs so they can claim the power needed to use their gifts.

All: Let it remind us of all people who are discriminated against in wages and work because of age, gender, or race.

P: We bring RICE CAKES to our table. Rice in antiquity was in many places very rare and treasured, thus it was kept for medicinal uses. Let these rice cakes stand for all people who are ill, especially for the terminally ill. Let it also represent those who do the work of healing.

All: Let it remind us of the healing that is needed because of the rejection, pain, and hurt many of our people feel from family, friends, church and society.

P: We bring SOURDOUGH BREAD to our table today. It has as its leavening agent a small amount of dough kept from the last batch.

All: Thus we hold in mind our mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers and all our ancestors. Those whose life blood we have in our veins. Those people who hungered for the power to make a difference.

P: UNLEAVENED BREAD calls to mind refugees and exiles, those who had to leave their homes and even flee their homeland.

All: Let this bread represent the people throughout the world who are displaced and homeless.

P: TORTILLAS symbolize those living under abusive regimes, especially those caught in drugs, human trafficking or living in terror.

All: Let them also symbolize all people who suffer. Those who live in fear, those who are bereaved and those who are peacemakers.

P: Let DARK BREAD signify those who because they are incomprehensible to the majority of us are marginalized in our society. Those who, because of our ignorance and prejudice, are forced to live in the shadows.

All: Let it also symbolize the dreamers, the visionaries, the prophets within our midst. May their gift of freedom be released!

P: SALTINES represent the elderly, the "salty ones". Those who formed our Church, those who have endured, and those who have learned wisdom.

All: We honor them.

P: CORN BREAD represents our sisters and brothers who are oppressed by unjust structures and systems. People

of all races and cultures who have been enslaved by injustice.

All: May their stories strengthen us all to work against unjust structures and systems.

P: Let SHORTBREAD represent the children. The young who run, laugh, play and trust the promises given. Let it also represent those children of the world who cannot laugh and play. Those children who live in fear and go to sleep hungry.

All: May we build a world where they too may trust in an adult's promise. May the words of our mouths and the promises of our hearts be made real.

P: O God, we your children, together with your whole church, celebrate the gift of your Son, which you have given to the whole world.

All: May Christ's presence be in our midst now and forever.

P: We pray that we may love one another as we have come to know your love for us in Jesus.

All: For we believe that all love comes from you and that as you live in us your love is made known as we witness to our brothers and sisters.

P: Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his friends "This is my body which is broken for you."

All: Bread, the gift of the earth and many hands. Seeds crushed, dough kneaded and baked, finally broken that we might continue the journey to wholeness and life.

P: Jesus took the cup of wine, offered thanks to God and shared it with those gathered near. "This is my life poured out for you so you might know the joy of forgiveness."

All: Wine, the fruit of the earth, the marriage of sun and rain. Fruit crushed and poured out that we might be filled with great joy and holy wisdom.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Let them be touched with power from on high to draw us close to your light, to confirm our belonging to your circle of love, to fill us with courage to do justice, love kindness and live with wild joy and unending praise.

All: May all of our lives reflect these gifts.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

All: Our Father 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 RITE

P: Come to the Banquet of the Shepherd who welcomes all.

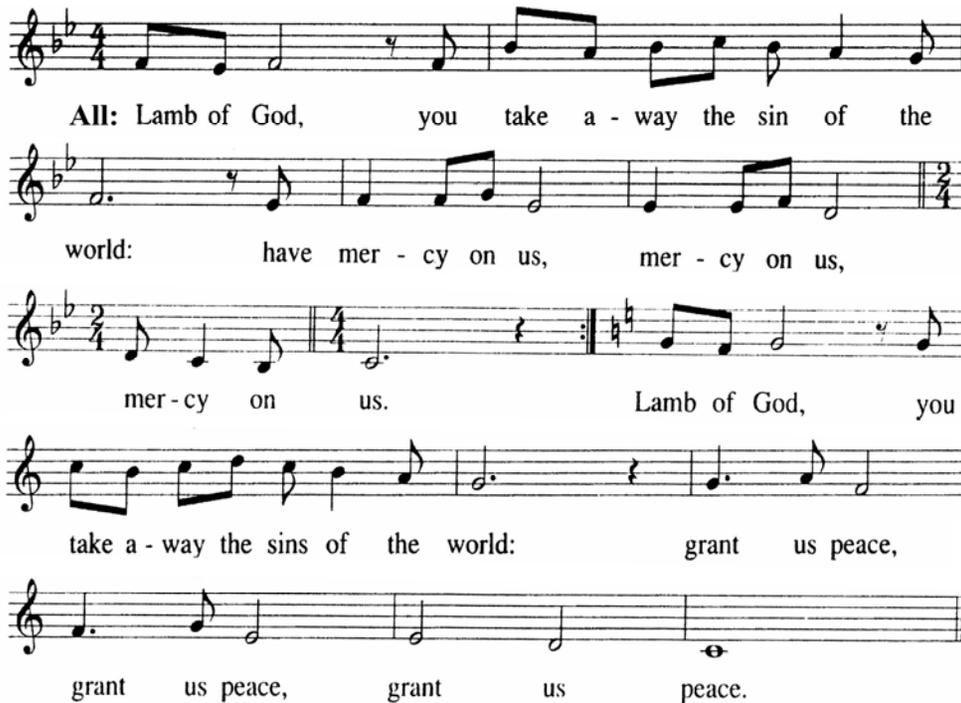
All: For this meal we give thanks!

Be Seated

The ushers will invite you to the Lord's Table after the Lamb of God is sung.



LAMB OF GOD



All: Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Holy Communion is open to all.
Wine is red, grape juice is white.
Let an usher know if you desire communion brought to you.



COMMUNION SONG . . . "Come to the Table"

Come to the table of mercy
Prepared with the wine and the bread
All who are hungry and thirsty
Come and your souls will be fed

Come at the Lord's invitation
Receive from his nail-scarred hands
Eat of the bread of salvation
Drink of the blood of the Lamb

(Repeat both verses)

COMMUNION SONG . . . "Eat this Bread"

Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup
Come to me and never be hungry
Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup
Trust in me and you will not thirst.

Singing Bowl



Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst.

All: By your gifts of word and holy meal, strengthen us to take up the cross as we go about our callings in this world, following after Jesus Christ, our servant Lord.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life and the bread of life to nourish your people.

All: Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

Be Seated



Community Announcements

Please Stand

A Story that Sends Us Out to Love and Serve

BENEDICTION

P: Thanksgiving to you, O God.

All: Thanksgiving for the glorious Creator, thanksgiving for a community that sustains us,

P: Thanksgiving for a word to challenge us, thanksgiving for Jesus, the Way for us,

All: Thanksgiving for your eternal Hope!

P: O Loving, joyful and careful God,

All: Thank you!

SENDING SONG . . . “Shine, Jesus, Shine”

Chorus

Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations with love and mercy
Send forth Your word
Lord, and let there be light

Verse 1

Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus

Verse 3

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me, shine on me

Chorus

DISMISSAL

L: Proclaim your thanksgiving! God is good! Rejoice in all God has given you.

All: We will declare God's greatness to all: we will work to build up the faith community and to share our blessings with the needy. May it be so!

**All are invited to the
Thanksgiving Potluck
in Holland Hall
following the service.**



“Now the Feast and Celebration” Musical setting by Marty Haugen
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