



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### ***Worship Servants this evening***

*Worship Leader, Pastor Finn*

*Reader, Jacob O'Connor*

*Organist, Amy Danke*

*Head Usher, Bob Grunwald*



## **THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2018**

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**WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)**





## Order of Service

### First Day

**Reader:** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Now the earth was a formless void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light; and God separated the light from the darkness. Evening passed and morning came—the first day.

Hymn of Invocation....."Let There Be Light"

**TUNE: #193**

God, whose almighty word, chaos and darkness heard, And took their flight; hear us, we humbly pray, and where the Gospel day,  
Sheds not its glorious ray, **let there be light!**

Lord, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing, Healing and sight; health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind;  
Oh, now to humankind **let there be light!**

Spirit of truth and love, life-giving holy dove, Speed forth your flight;  
Move on the water's face bearing the lamp of grace,  
And in earth's darkest place **let there be light!**

Holy and blessed three, glorious Trinity, Wisdom, love, might!  
Boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride.  
Through the earth, far and wide, **let there be light!**

**Pastor:** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER, *Sung to the tune of #322*

Our heav'nly Father, hear, your faithful children's prayer:  
Your name, divine and dear, be hallowed ev'rywhere!  
Your kingdom come! Your heav'nly will among us, still,  
On earth be done!

The bread for which we yearn,  
Each day, O Father, give.  
Forgive us, as in turn our debtors we forgive.  
Your people lead. In trial's hour, from Satan's pow'r, Let us be freed!

For you, O Lord, are King;  
All pow'r is yours, we own;  
Your glory now we sing, the glory yours alone.  
So shall it be; Your kingdom, might, And glory bright, eternally!

## CLOSING BENEDICTION, *Spoken by Pastor*

Now may the God of all creation bless and keep you. May he make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto. May he lift up his countenance upon you and grant you his peace. Amen.

## Closing Hymn: #334

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!



P: On the second day, you graced creation with waters below and above, with the beautiful blue of the sea and the sky. To this day, you continue to grace the world with rain that refreshes and the and the snow that sends shivers, and with the atmosphere and the blessings that come down through it. For all your gifts of creation,

**C: We give you thanks, O gracious God.**

P: The gifts you granted us on the third day are land, dry and wet, deserts and bogs, canyons and cactus, valleys and vines, fruits for our eating and nuts we can shell, awesome oceans and plains of grain, the earth and all its bounty. For all your gifts of creation,

**C: We give you thanks, O gracious God.**

P: The fourth day you brought forth the heavenly lights: the beacon of the sun, the lantern of the moon, the mystery of the planets and stars. You balance creation with sunny days and cool evenings, seasons and years and tides and time. For all your gifts of creation,

**C: We give you thanks, O gracious God.**

P: Day five you provided things that flap and flutter, squawk and chirp; you made whales and minnows, eagles and eggs, and everything that flies to the heights of your heavens and swims to the depths of your oceans. For all your gifts of creation,

**C: We give you thanks, O gracious God.**

P: The sixth day reveals your grand glory when you designed things that creep and crawl, stalk and strut. We marvel at humans and hugs, ourselves and your Son, who entered this world to make us your own again. For all your gifts of creation,

**C: We give you thanks, O gracious God.**

P: For the seventh day when you rested, we rejoice in the rest of worship and meditation, in weekend free time to recharge and celebrate your creation so that we can praise you more and more. For all your gifts of creation,

**C: We give you thanks, O gracious God.**

P: Let all creation join to praise your goodness and your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer is SUNG this evening (See next page)***

**C: Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.**

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C: His steadfast love endures forever!**

**Prayer of the Day (*Read by the pastor*)**

## **Second Day**

**Reader:** And God said, "Let there be a vault to divide the water and keep it in two separate places." And it was so. God made a vault, and it separated the water under it from the water above it. He named the vault, "Sky." Evening passed and morning came—the second day.

**Old Testament Reading.....from Isaiah 55**

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! ... Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live ... Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon...For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**Sing: #613:1,2**

**Come, you thankful people, come;**

**Raise the song of harvest-home.**

**All be safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin.**

**God our maker shall provide, For our wants to be supplied.**

**Come to God's own temple, come;**

**Raise the song of harvest-home.**

All the world is God's own field,  
Fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and weeds 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.

### Third Day

**Reader:** And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. And God said, "Let the land produce vegetation, plants yielding seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. And God saw that it was good. Evening passed and morning came—the third day.

### Psalmody, from Psalm 65

*(Tune: # 609 - Congregation sings verses in bold)*

P: Praise is due to you, O God; and to you shall vows be performed.

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.**

P: Happy are those whom you choose, whom you bring to live in your sanctuary. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house.

**We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

P: By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation. You are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

**We worship you, God of our fathers; we bless you;  
Through trial and tempest our Guide you have been.**

P: You calm the roaring of the seas and the noise of the waves; you calm the uproar of the peoples. The whole world stands in awe of the great things you have done.

**When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
And with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

**HOMILY: "Give Thanks to the LORD"**

1. For creating and preserving us.
2. For redeeming us in Christ.

**Sing:** [Tune: #610]

**Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices.  
Who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**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 harm in this world and the next.**

**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 Seventh Day

**Reader:** Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

### The Offering

### Responsive Prayer of the Church for Thanksgiving

P: O God, from whom every good and perfect gift comes down, let all creation join to praise your goodness. On the first day you brought light, seen today in fire and photons, lasers and light shows, color and campfire, energy and everything that springs from your brightness. For all your gifts of creation,

C: We give you thanks, O gracious God.



P: You send abundant rain on the plowed fields and soak them with water; you soften the soil with showers and cause the young plants to grow. You crown the year with bounty.

**With voices united our praises we offer  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.**

P: When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house.

**With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

### **The Fourth Day**

**Reader:** And God said, “Let there be lights in the sky to give light upon the earth, to be for signs and seasons and days and years.” And it was so. And God saw that it was good. Evening passed and morning came—the fourth day.

**New Testament Reading.....1 Corinthians 15**  
Someone will ask, “How can the dead be raised to life? What kind of body will they have?” How foolish! When you plant a seed in the ground, it does not sprout to life unless it dies. And what you plant is just a seed, perhaps a grain of wheat or some other grain, not the full-bodied plant that will later grow up. But God provides that seed with a body as he wishes; he gives each seed its own proper body...And there are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies; the beauty that belongs to heavenly bodies is different from the beauty that belongs to earthly bodies. The sun has its own beauty, the moon another beauty, and the stars a different beauty; and even among stars there are different kinds of beauty. So it will be when the dead are raised to life. When the body is buried, it is mortal; when raised it will be immortal. When buried, it is ugly and weak; when raised, it will be beautiful and strong ...For when the trumpet sounds, the dead will be raised, never to die again, and we shall all be changed! Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Sing:** [Tune: #234]

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**

*Continues on next page...*

**O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!**

**Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
Joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things is wondrously reigning  
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
Sent by his gracious ordaining?**

### **The Fifth Day**

**Reader:** And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the heavens.” And God saw that it was good. Evening passed and morning came—the fifth day.

### **The Gospel Reading..... Matthew 6:25-33**

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look 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? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**Sing:** [Tune: #234]

**Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with his love he befriend you.**