

**CLOSING HYMN ~ #839 ELW "Now Thank We All Our God"**

**COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Pastor: May Thanksgiving be more than a special day; may it be for us a way of life.

People: **We have been enriched in every way for great generosity. Thanksgiving to our God!**

Pastor: Appreciate anew the good earth that is our inheritance from a loving God.

People: **We celebrate again God's goodness to our ancestors and God's continuing provision for us.**

Pastor: The God who has answered our prayers asks our help in answering the prayers of others.

People: **We will not forget the source of our good life or think we can keep it by hoarding it.**

Pastor: God, who raised mountains and stills roaring seas, will dwell with us to calm and uplift.

People: **Grant us, O God, to live peaceably with all your love and with thankfulness at the heart of all we do.**

**POSTLUDE**

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**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Welcoming All,  
Growing,  
and Sharing God's Love.*



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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Thanksgiving**  
**Service of Word & Prayer**

**Zion Lutheran Church ~ November 2020**

**PRELUDE**

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

People: **God's love is everlasting.**

Pastor: Come, let us praise God joyfully.

People: **Come let us come before God with thanksgiving.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Gracious God, you bless us with all that we need to live. We praise you for the wealth of the land, the beauty of the skies, the depth of the seas. Fill our hearts with thanksgiving, so that our lives would live out your goodness, now and eternally, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN ~ #881 ELW "Let All Things Now Living"**

**THANKSGIVING DIALOG**

Pastor: We enjoy God's blessings every day of the year.

People: **And we try to remember to thank God every day.**

Pastor: But today is a special day to remember all that God has done for us and to give thanks and praise to God.

People: **We give thanks to God for our homes and families.**

Pastor: We give thanks to God for jobs and school.

**People: We give thanks to God for healthy bodies and medical care when we need it.**

Pastor: We give thanks to God for the seasons and the wonders of creation.

**People: We give thanks to God for food and clothing.**

Pastor: We give thanks to God for neighbors and friends.

**People: We give thanks to God for the love that God has shown us in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: And as we give thanks, we remember the needs of others. For those who have no jobs and those who never get the chance to go to school.

**People: We praise and thank God, for all the ways that God has blessed our family. We want to be doers of God's word and not just hearers. We will strive to praise God by using our blessings to help your people in need.**

#### **GOSPEL Matthew 6:25-33**

"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? 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 can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry 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 clothed like one of these. But 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? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

#### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**THANKSGIVING MESSAGE ~ Pastor Scott Ludford**

**HYMN OF THE DAY ~ #693 ELW "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"**

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord God, You have gathered us together this Thanksgiving as one body. We are grateful not only for the gift of life itself, but also for the many gifts of friendship, love, devotion and forgiveness that we share in common.

We thank You, dear God, for showing us how to return our thanks by speaking the Name of Jesus, living lives of service, by genuine deeds of hospitality, by extending kindness to the stranger and by showing concern for one another.

Help us to show Your grace and mercy to one another. Allow us to see the full spectrum of Your gifts and the marvelous diversity of all your people. Use us to make You visible and know to others in countless ways so that Your great love for us might be mirrored in our love for one another. As we again prepare to celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving, help us live our lives with ever grateful and humble hearts. Bless us this day and all days without end, forever and ever.

**People: Amen**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**People: 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.**