



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, HELENA MONTANA**  
**Sunday, November 22nd, 2020**  
*"Thanks Lord"*  
*A Thanksgiving Service for the End of the Church Year*

**PRELUDE**

**OPENING HYMN: "We Gather Together"**

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,  
Sing praises to his name: He forgets not his own.*

*Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, wast at our side, All glory be thine!*

*We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!*



## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM: p. 119 in the ELW**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.**

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **A RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Living God, we give You thanks on this day for all Your works in creation.

**We thank You for the bounty of harvest and the beauty of the earth.**

Forgive us, O God, when we have been short-sighted and have used the earth for our own gain,  
rather than caring for the earth as Your creation.

**Forgive us, O God, when we have made our own worries and frets greater problems for others,  
rather than lifting up our concerns to You.**

Guide us in ways we may live our lives that help to sustain the earth. Help us to seek Your vision for  
our lives.

**Remind us that there is a difference between our wants and needs, and help us to discern the  
difference, so that we might help our neighbors in need.**

Call us into greater ways of love and service, as we remember those who are still struggling from the  
effects of Covid-19, fires, and hurricanes.

**Lead us to share and give and to reach out in vital ways that we can show Your love and care to  
others. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**



**HYMN OF PRAISE: "For The Beauty of the Earth" #879 verses 1, 2, 4**

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light.  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho" arr. M. Hayes-Jay Bahny, Bass**

**WORD**

**Joel 2:21-27**

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 138**

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;

**I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;  
for you have exalted your name and your word  
above everything.**

On the day I called, you answered me,  
you increased my strength of soul.



**All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,  
for great is the glory of the Lord.

**For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;  
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;  
you stretch out your hand,  
and your right hand delivers me.

**The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

### **Colossians 3:12-17**

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 17th chapter, beginning with the 11th verse

**Glory to you, oh Lord.**

### **Luke 17:11-19**

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, oh Christ.**



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

*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.*

*All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his 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.*

*For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home;  
from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;  
give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.*

*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!*

**SERMON: "Giving Thanks"**

**RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL FOR THANKSGIVING**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
**God's steadfast love endures forever.**  
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name.  
**Make known God's deeds among the peoples!**  
God blesses us with gifts of love:  
**With good and clothing, home and family.**  
God blesses us with daily work:  
**And all we need from day to day.**  
God protects us in time of danger:  
**And guards us from every evil.**  
God calls us into relationship with him:  
**And forms us into one holy people, the Church of Jesus Christ in this place.**  
Therefore shall we offer thanks and praise to the Lord our God.  
**O Lord our God, we will give thanks to you forever.**

**THANKOFFERING**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Lord in your mercy.  
**Hear our prayer.**



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace or pray for peace.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

### CLOSING HYMN: "Now Thank We All Our God" #840

*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.*

*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 all in 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 Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

## DISMISSAL

## POSTLUDE



## MINISTERING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**Pastor Brad Ulgenes, Preaching & Presiding**  
**Dodie Walsh, Organ**  
**Gretchen Mundinger, Cantor**

**K'lynn Sloan Harris, Technology and Sound**  
**Rebekah French, Lector**

**In our prayers this week:** for our church as we celebrate 125 years of ministry, Billy Hansen, Vern Grimsrud, Karen Bryson, Steve Crosby, Marlys Mattfeldt, Carl Mattfeldt, Carol Anderson, Emma Rose Plute, Matt Annen, Lindsay Annen, Mike Doig, for the families of all who have died because of racism, poverty, and Covid-19, for law enforcement, Patsy Buckingham, Judith Sterling, Greg Johnson, Luken Kestrel, Suzanne Corzine, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Alex Betz, Georgine Larson, John Shields, Hazel Aasved, Rosita Moe, Nancy Justus, Luke Almas, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Gina Hultin, Chris Gibbs, Dustin Michelle, Randy Holmes, Lester Anderson, the children at Intermountain, for those who are alone, for those who suffer from depression, for the homeless in our community, and for all who seek health and wholeness

**For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care:**

Kelly Harris, Gordan Justus, Carol Alpiner, Ada Harlan, Todd Ruedisili, Denise Pennington, Eunice Mattfeldt, Nancy McCoskery, Bessie Schwarting, Dave Hanson, Rick Forrest, Ray Beaver, Steve Sarstad, and all the Saints in heaven

**For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound:**

Wilma Carlson, Mike Kieckbusch, Donna Anderson, Milo and Hazel Aasved, Esther Fuehrer, Sally Miller, Maury Knutson, Marge Mihelish, Doris Crider, Phillip Kerr

**Missionaries:** Willie, Anne, and Micah Langdji in Cameroon  
Mark and Marina Dotson in Russia

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart; that that barriers dividing us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease, and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.*  
*(Romans 12:12)*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES**

*Keep checking our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information, for inspiring posts, and for live devotions on Wednesday at noon.*

### **WORSHIP UPDATES**

Church Council met on Tuesday, November 17th and decided that due to the rising Covid-19 numbers in our community we will continue with online only worship.

### **COMMUNION AT HOME**

If you would like a visit from Pastor and for him to bring you communion at home please call the office.

### **THANKOFFERING SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 22**

The Women of the ELCA and its predecessors have a long tradition of giving thanks by placing offerings in a special container, which are traditionally collected on a Sunday in November. Many of us made our own Thankoffering containers when we met in February to celebrate Bold Women with members of other congregations in the Great Divide Cluster. All funds raised by the Thankoffering collections are sent directly to our national organization. Although we cannot worship in person today, Rebekah will be accepting Thankoffering donations on the table in the Narthex between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. If you cannot bring your Thankoffering and have not already sent a check, please send a check to the office made payable to WELCA and marked "Thankoffering."

### **CARDS 4 KIDS CHRISTMAS CARD PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX OF THE CHURCH FOR THE ENTIRE MONTH OF NOVEMBER!!!**

Packages of 15 cards are \$5 apiece with ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS FOR 2021. Cards packages are an assortment of secular and religious themes, handmade and unique. Please make checks out to St. John's Lutheran Church. Thank you for all your support for this ministry for our kids! Questions.....give me a call at 443-6451 or an e-mail at [larrylarison@rocketmail.com](mailto:larrylarison@rocketmail.com)

JANICE LARISON

CARDS 4 KIDS

### **TECH HELP NEEDED**

Are you interested in computers and social media? Would you like to help out with streaming our service? Angela is looking for another person with computer knowledge and a willingness to learn sound and streaming specific technology to help out when she is gone. Please contact her at [ange.m.conley@gmail.com](mailto:ange.m.conley@gmail.com) or call/text 406-461-2584 if interested.

### **PRAYER SHAWLS NEEDED**

We are down to 6 prayer shawls in our stash. If you are able to make more and bring them to church it would be greatly appreciated. We have yarn at church if you need some. If you have questions please call the office or speak with Shirley Hautzinger.

### **VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY ON MONDAY NIGHTS**

The Virtual Bible Study has moved to Monday nights. Join us, let Bing and Mary know so they can send you the link to join the meeting. [bingcroz@yahoo.com](mailto:bingcroz@yahoo.com)



## **SOCIAL MINISTRY OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER-INTERMOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S HOME**

At times like these, providing Hope & Healing means more than ever. This is why Intermountain's missional work providing Hope & Healing to over 1,200 children, youth, and families every day will not stop. To ensure our care for those who need it most continues as we navigate around the coronavirus (COVID-19), Intermountain's family of 260 professionals continue to provide greater access to care through: Expanded teletherapy platforms, Greater resources for parents and guardians to help them continue healing at home, Total community focus through our partnerships with school districts, community health partners, and Montana health monitoring organizations. St. John's has partnered with Intermountain in the past by providing counselors from FLBC to lead a study and activities for an afternoon, we led a week long VBS onsite for the children, and our Youth Director Gretchen Munding was their guest speaker at the Valentine's Day Tea this year. This is a ministry that is near and dear to our hearts. Please consider making a Social Ministry donation in November to Intermountain. You can mail in your donations to the church or mark the pew offering envelope.