

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SANTA CLARITA
THANKSGIVING EVE
7:00 P.M.
NOVEMBER 24, 2021

Prelude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

Entrance Hymn

Gift of Finest Wheat

Nun danket alle Gott

Refrain

You sat - is - fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat,
 come give to us, O___ sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

Verses

1. As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice;
 2. With joy - ful lips we sing to you, Our praise and grat - i - tude.
 3. Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of Christ out poured?
 4. The mys - try of your pres-ence, Lord; No mor - tal tongue can tell:
 5. You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,
 So when you call your fam - ly Lord, We fol - low and re - joice.
 That you should count us wor - thy Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
 Whom all the world can - not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
 To serve each oth - er in your name In truth and char - i - ty.

T H E W O R D O F G O D

Priest: Blessed be our God.

People: For ever and ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Priest and People:

Glory to God in the highest,
 and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
 we worship you, we give you thanks,
 we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
 have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
 receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ,
 with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Priest: Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

The First Reading Joel 2:21-27

Reader: Cathy Gero

A Reading from the Book of Joel.

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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126

Reader: Sheri Flay

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Second Reading 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Reader: Sheri Flay

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy.

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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading Matthew 6:25-33

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

"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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Christopher Montella
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Reader: Steve Ploté

Intercessor: Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

Intercessor: For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,
People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Intercessor: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,
People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Intercessor: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Intercessor: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Intercessor: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Intercessor: For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Intercessor: For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Intercessor: For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
People: **We thank you, Lord.**

Celebrant

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing of Thanksgiving Items

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Members of the congregation who are joining us via livestream are encouraged to post "Peace be with you" in the comments or to use the "like" or "love" reaction button to take part in the virtual exchange of God's peace with the rest of the congregation at this time.

Offertory Prayer

The People say together:

Loving God, you alone are the source of every good gift. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. Now, help us to be grateful, accountable, and, with praise and thanksgiving, to give of ourselves generously, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Offertory

Doxology

Old 100th

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God the Trinity of Love.
Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Priest and people say together:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to

draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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 for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set belongs to God.
Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey you are welcome to receive the Bread made holy.*

The church teaches that temporal isolation cannot constrain the sacrament's ineffable power. Calling us to "massive, corporate, spiritual communion,"

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Priest and People say together:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Communion Music

"For the beauty of the earth"

Rutter

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2. For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4. For the joy of hu - man love, bro - ther, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5. For the Church which ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
of - fering up on ev - ery shore thy pure sac - ri - fice of love,

Refrain

Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

6. For each perfect gift of thine
to the world so freely given,
faith and hope and love divine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven. (*Refrain*)

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

The People say together:

**God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;**

and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn #411

“O bless the Lord, my soul!”

St. Thomas (Williams)

1. O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!
 2. O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!
 3. He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;
 4. He par - dons all thy sins, pro - longs thy fee - ble breath;
 5. He clothes thee with his love, up - holds thee with his truth;
 6. Then bless his ho - ly Name, whose grace hath made thee whole,

The Dismissal

Priest: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Service Music Credits
From *The Hymnal 1982*: #411 "O bless the Lord, my soul", Words: James Montgomery (1771–1854); para of Psalm 103. Music: *St. Thomas (Williams)*, melody Aaron Williams (1731–1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792–1872). "For the beauty of the earth", Words: Folliot Sandford Pierpont (1835–1917), alt., Music: *Dix*, melody Conrad Kocher (1786–1872); arr. William Henry Monk (1823–1889); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906. Arr. John Rutter. Sung by the Cambridge Singers City of London.
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Doxology – Music: Old 100th; based on *Pseumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. After Louis Bourgeois (1510–1561).

