

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Thankoffering Sunday
Pastor Christian Magnell
November 3rd, 2024, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GREETING

MESSAGE FROM WOMEN OF PEACE

HYMN *“Now Thank We All Our God”*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Father, we have the privilege of standing before you to worship

in the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, this world can be overwhelming, and we mix up our priorities. Help us to consider how we've turned away from you. *(time for reflection)*

Father, we've sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We ignored your commands to love our neighbor. We have dehumanized your children and worshipped idols of money, power, fame and politics. We ask for forgiveness and a new way of seeing the world.

Friends, we are forgiven, and not only that, but God has also sent his Holy Spirit to teach us a new way to live every day. We are not locked into patterns of the past!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN *“Goodness of God”*

READING: Psalm 138:4-9

Are you grateful? Do you count your blessings? Do you regard the works of the Lord with wonder and joy or complain that you don't have more?

4 Give to them according to their work and according to the evil of their deeds; give to them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward. 5 Because they do not regard the works of the Lord or the work of his hands, he will tear them down and build them up no more. 6 Blessed be the Lord! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy. 7 The Lord is my strength and my

shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. 8 The Lord is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. 9 Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks. What would our lives look like if we took seriously these words from Paul to the Thessalonians?

12 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. 15 See that no one repays anyone

evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION God is good. **All the time.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

In these verses, called the Beatitudes, Jesus challenges our notions of blessing. Rather than long life, financial success, or educational advancement, blessing is found in things like mourning, meekness, purity, and peacemaking.

1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 “Blessed are the pure in

heart, for they shall see God. 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time. **God is good!**

HYMN *“Father, I Adore You / Sanctuary”*

SERMON – “True Blessings”

PRAYER AT RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION – *“This I Believe”*

PRAYER & BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

Amen!

CLOSING SONG

"My Lighthouse"

DISMISSAL

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Thought of the Week

Be at peace among yourselves.

1 Thessalonians 5:13b

Be at peace. This could be an advertisement for our church! "Be at Peace!" Of course, Paul didn't mean our congregation; rather, he was speaking to something we people aren't usually good at: living at peace with each other.

I think about this because we live in a world that needs peace right now. Ukraine, Israel, North and South Korea, Taiwan, just to name a few prominent places. Here at home, we have yet another election. What saddens me is that, after Tuesday, however it turns out, about half our congregation will be sad (again, however it turns out).

Here is my admonition: be at peace. If your "side" wins, act with grace and humility. If your "side" loses, act with grace and humility. Don't take to social media and dehumanize the other side. Better yet, refuse to be part of the "my side vs your side" game.

Our side is Christ. Jesus is on the throne and, no matter how an earthly election goes, He will remain so. And if He is on the throne, it's easier to be "at peace."