



November 21, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Thanksgiving Service, Year A

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Maggie Westaby
5304 N 44th Ave
Wausau, Wisconsin 54401
Web Address: stjohnwausau.org
E-mail: pastor.maggie.westaby@gmail.com
Email: stjohnwausau@msn.com

Office: (715) 675-6950

Tuesday, November 21st 2023

Thanksgiving Service, Year A

Reverend Maggie Westaby

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THANKSGIVING

GATHERING

We Gather Together (Immanuel Bell Choir)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Grace,

You provide for all of your creation. In every space and in every place. Yet the world is broken and provision can become fragmented. We pray for all who are struggling this Thanksgiving and we ask that they know your comfort, love, and peace. We pray for all who are traveling, may their journey be safe. We pray for all who gather together. For joy, for love, and for laughter. May the table be a place where we remember your table. A place to be filled so that we can share your love with others. **Amen.**

READING: Genesis 18:1-10

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the

scriptures to us?”³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

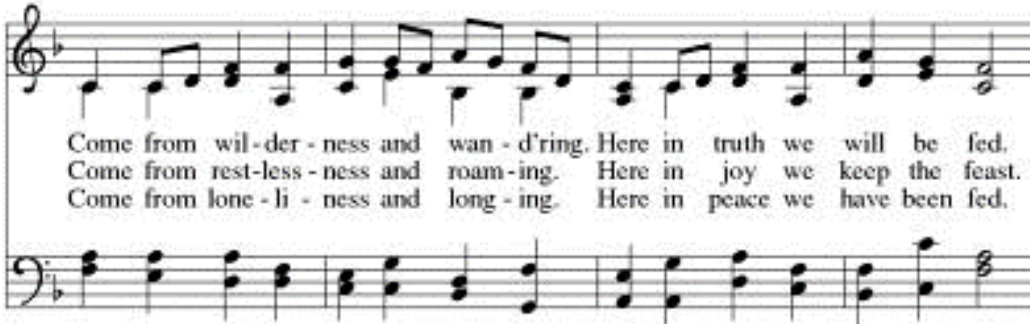
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

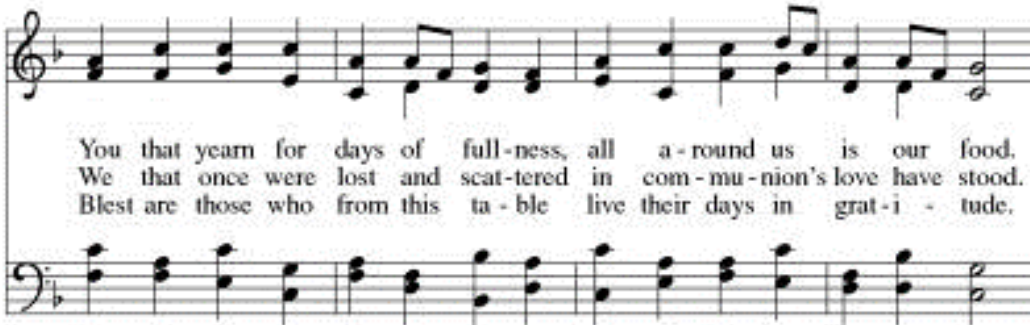
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to- geth-er, Je- sus Christ is liv- ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Colonytown Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrators.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

How can we withhold our gifts of gratitude in the face of such wondrous love? With glad and generous hearts, let us bring our offerings to God.

OFFERING SONG

Now Thank We All Our God (Immanuel Bell Choir)

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness,

Generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

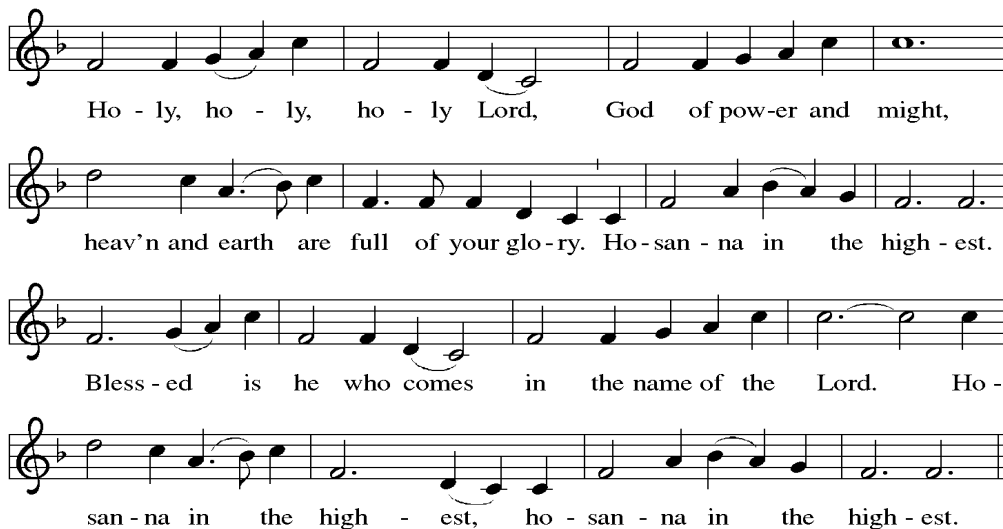
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you, a place where you are filled with God's love, forgiveness, and never-ending grace.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en,

we eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| 1 | Break now the bread | of Christ's sac - ri - fice; | giv - ing |
| 2 | Seek not the food | that will pass a - way; | set your |
| 3 | Love as the one | who, in love for you, | gave him - |
| 4 | Dwell in the one | who now dwells in you; | make your |
| 5 | Drink of this cup | and de - clare his death; | eat this |

thanks, hun - gry ones,	gath - er round.	Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food that en - dures.		Come, learn the true and the
self for the life of the world.		Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing Word.		Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn;		trust his re - turn and, with

sat - is - fied;	in Christ's pres - ence	the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way,	that the full - ness of life	may be yours.
food for you,	that your hun - ger and thirst	be no more.
One of God,	and be - lieve in the truth	you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath,	praise the one in whom you	are re - born.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO | BREAK NOW THE BREAD, Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas

Text and music © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc., 7494 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.1338.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrators.

Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in B-flat major. The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics for three parts. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

The second system continues the vocal melody and accompaniment from the first system, maintaining the same structure and lyrics.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

The Refrain section begins with a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a vocal line with the lyrics, and the bass staff has a supporting accompaniment.

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

The final system concludes the piece with a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a vocal line with the lyrics, and the bass staff has a supporting accompaniment that ends with a double bar line.

Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

The first system of the score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The music is a simple harmonic accompaniment for the vocal lines.

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

The second system continues the musical accompaniment with two staves in treble and bass clefs, maintaining the key signature of one sharp and 4/4 time signature.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

The refrain section is marked with the word "Refrain" in italics. It consists of two staves in treble and bass clefs, continuing the key signature and time signature.

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The final system of the score consists of two staves in treble and bass clefs, concluding the piece.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.
Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,

In this meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May God provide you what you need,

May Christ cultivate a prayer of gratitude in your heart,

May the Spirit summon peace, joy, and love in you, and in all you meet,

And may the Three in One ☩ bless your coming and going,

Now and forevermore. Amen

I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love,
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do,
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word,
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love,

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1854-1911
 Music: HANKEY, William E. Fisher, 1848-1908

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word* © Worship Companion. Copyright 2014.

Welcome to all! Welcome to Thanksgiving worship as together we give God praise for his countless blessings — not least his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

“Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way.”—Native American saying

Please remember to silence pagers and cell phones during services.

To those who are visiting: Welcome to St. John and thank you for joining us! You are welcome to sign our registry in the narthex. May God bless you today and all days.

Reminder! If you are in need of Pastoral care, please contact St. John’s at (715) 675-6950

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday. All are welcome to share the Lord’s Supper with us.

Food Basket. Each week you are invited to bring non-perishable grocery items to be given to a local food pantry. Place your gift in the *Food Basket* next to the main entrance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2024 Time & Talent sheet is ready for you to select area(s) that you would like to help share your time and talent with your church! There are so many options, and the wonderful thing is that most have very little time investment for you, but the benefit is great to our church! Please take a moment to look over the Time & Talent sheet, it is divided into different areas of service, with the council chairperson’s contact info listed, for you to reach out to with any questions you may have. Please fill out and return your sheet in the offering plate on any Sunday, leave in Mary’s (secretaries) mailbox, or even call / email me and we’ll get you signed up! Please take time to fill out a Time & Talent sheet, even if you already serve in areas of the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lane Bahr.

St. John Quilting Wishlist. Left over fabric or never used fabric, light weight denim, cotton or flannel sheets, pillow cases, cotton curtains (unlined), cotton shower curtains. If you are interested, come join us! You can also sew a quilt top from home. Size needed is 60 x 80. They do not need to be fancy. Thank you!

Advent Resources Available. ELCA Advent Devotionals & Advent Calendars are in the Narthex. If you are interested in Kate Bowler’s Advent Devotional, see Pastor Maggie.

Men’s Breakfast. Pastor Will from Trinity in Stettin and St. Peter’s in Marathon has invited all men from St. John to meet the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. At LC Restaurant, in Marathon (Formerly the Village Inn).

Monday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Maggie’s Book Club will be discussing *90 Minutes in Heaven* by Don Piper.

Tuesday, November 28 at 6:30 p.m. The Adult Study will meet to discuss part 3 & 4 of *What Is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything* by Rob Bell.

Tuesday, December 12 at 5:00 p.m. St. John’s Sisterhood Ladies Christmas Gathering. Please consider joining the Sisterhood crew for our annual Christmas gathering at 2510 Restaurant. “Happy Hour” starts at 5:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at 6:00 p.m. As per tradition, we will be collecting non-perishable items for the Women’s Community (toiletries, toothpaste, shampoo/conditioner, etc.) and holding our annual white elephant gift exchange... so start looking in those storage rooms and basements (this exchange will be held after dinner – don’t forget to wrap your ‘gift’!). A sign-up sheet and additional information are located in the Narthex.

Saturday, December 16 9:30-10:30 a.m. Dress Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17 worship is at 10:00 a.m. for our Children's Christmas Program! Potluck to follow! Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Monday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. Blue Christmas. A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time, and for those who would like to spend more time in prayer. This service will have candle lighting, music, prayers, and a sermon. All are welcome.

Sunday, December 24. Christmas Eve Worship will be at 4:00 & 6:30 only. We will not have a 9:00 a.m. Worship Service.

Wednesday, December 27 at 6:00 p.m. Christmas Pizza & PJ Party. Pizza served at 6, The Muppet Christmas Carol from 6:30-8. Kids are welcome to bring a friend!

Live Streaming and Photography Notice. When you enter a St. John Lutheran Church service or event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording or live streaming may occur. If you prefer not to be recognized on camera, the back row inside the church is not within viewing distance of a camera and communion will typically be only on a wide shot where it may be difficult to recognize congregants. Parents, please note our children's sermons are being recorded and live streamed. If you do not want your child to be recognized on camera, please refrain from having them participate.

Coming This Week @ St. John November 21 – November 26

November 21

- 8:30 a.m. Quilting
- 9:00 a.m. Pr. Maggie @ Pr. Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Evening Service + First Communion

November 23

All Day Church Office Closed. Happy Thanksgiving!

November 26

- 9:00 a.m. Worship