

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Wagga Wagga

Harvest Thanksgiving

7th March, 2021

The Triune God meets with us

God gives the grass for the cattle,
and plants for people to use;
he brings forth food from the earth,
and gives wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen us. (Ps 104:14,15 NRSV)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

We listen & meditate on the song 'Father Welcomes' (ATN 4)

*Father welcomes all his children
to his fam'ly through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
Life for ever has been won.*

1. Little children, come to me,
for my kingdom is of these,
Life and love I have to give,
Mercy for your sin.

*Father welcomes all his children
to his fam'ly through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
Life for ever has been won.*

2. In the water, in the Word,
in his promise, be assured:
He who is baptized and believes
Shall be born again.

*Father welcomes all his children
to his fam'ly through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
Life for ever has been won.*

3. Let us daily die to sin;
let us daily rise with him -
Walk in the love of Christ our Lord,
Live in the peace of God.

*Father welcomes all his children
to his fam'ly through his Son;
Father giving his salvation,
Life for ever has been won.*

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The baptism of Ellie May Mulloy

We pray the prayer of Jesus

**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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Matt 6:9-13
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

We confess our faith in the Triune God

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

** 'catholic' here meaning 'universal'*

We confess our sins to God the Father...

Friends in Christ:

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ^{Jn 3:17}

Therefore, let's confess our sins to God our Father, and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

We confess that we are born in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.

We deserve your eternal punishment.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us.

Amen.

I ask each of you in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

I do.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in his name?

I do.

Do you intend with the help of the Holy Spirit to live as in God's presence, and to

strive daily to lead a holy life, even as Christ has made you holy?

I do.

...and God forgives us

I have good news for you!

St Paul tells us: 'God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' Rom 5:8

As a called and ordained servant of the word, I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive the sins of all of you who repent and believe, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you.

Amen.

Jesus leads us as we pray

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Merciful Father, you have protected the fruits of the earth and crowned the year with your blessing. Bless and protect the living seed of your word which has been sown in our hearts, so that we may produce the fruit of your word and always offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice of thanks. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

1st Reading – God speaks through his prophets

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ When you have entered the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance and have taken possession of it and settled in it, ² take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil of the land that the Lord your God is giving you and put them in a basket. Then go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name ³ and say to the priest in office at the time, 'I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come to the land the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' ⁴ The priest shall take the basket from your hands and set it down in front of the altar of the Lord your God. ⁵ Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: 'My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. ⁶ But the Egyptians ill-treated us and made us suffer,

subjecting us to harsh labour. ⁷ Then we cried out to the Lord, the God of our ancestors, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. ⁸ So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. ⁹ He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; ¹⁰ and now I bring the firstfruits of the soil that you, Lord, have given me.’ Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him. ¹¹ Then you and the Levites and the foreigners residing among you shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

2nd Reading – God speaks through his apostles

Philippians 4:4-9

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading – God speaks through Jesus

Luke 17:11-19

¹¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, ‘Jesus, Master, have pity on us!’

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, ‘Go, show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him – and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?' ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?' ¹⁹ Then he said to him, 'Rise and go; your faith has made you well.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

God speaks to his children (?)

We listen & meditate on the song 'Sing to God with Joy' (ATOK 325)

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness,
Hymns and psalms of gratitude.
With the voice of praise discover
That to worship God is good.*

1. God unites his scattered people,
gathers those who wandered far,
heals the hurt and broken spirits,
tending every wound and scar.

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness,
Hymns and psalms of gratitude.
With the voice of praise discover
That to worship God is good.*

2. Such is God's great power and wisdom
none can calculate or tell.
Keen is God to ground the wicked
and with humble folk to dwell.

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness,
Hymns and psalms of gratitude.
With the voice of praise discover
That to worship God is good.*

3. God, with clouds, the sky has curtained,

thus ensuring rain shall fall.
Earth, responding, grows to order
food for creatures great and small.

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness,
Hymns and psalms of gratitude.
With the voice of praise discover
That to worship God is good.*

4. God's discernment never favours
strength or speed to lift or move.
God delights in those who fear him,
trusting in his steadfast love.

*Sing to God, with joy and gladness,
Hymns and psalms of gratitude.
With the voice of praise discover
That to worship God is good.*

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God speaks to us

We listen & meditate on the hymn 'For the fruits of all creation' (TIS 168)

1. For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for his gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe keeping,
thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour
God's will is done;
in our worldwide task of caring

for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

3. For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

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We give of ourselves

We praise you, Lord our God, creator and king of the universe.

You have created the world and made everything that is good in it.

You make the sun shine on the earth and water it with showers of rain.

You have produced plants and animals from the earth and have given it to us as our home.

You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living creature.

You have provided us with everything for our enjoyment and give us times for work and rest.

Give us health and strength for our work, so that we may rejoice in your goodness and use your good gifts for the benefit of all your creatures; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We pray for others

Response after each petition:

We thank you, O God

And praise your holy name.

The Triune God sends us out with blessing

Go in peace, with thankful hearts to serve the Lord.

The Lord bless you
and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favour †,
and give you peace. Num 6:24-26

Amen.

We listen & meditate on the song '10000 Reasons'

*Bless the Lord, oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name*

The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
And whatever lies before me
Let me be singing
When the evening comes

*Bless the Lord, oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name*

You're rich in love
And You're slow to anger
Your name is great
And Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons
For my heart to find

*Bless the Lord, oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name
Bless You Lord*

And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul will
Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore
Forevermore

*Bless the Lord, oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name*

*Bless the Lord, oh my soul
Oh my soul
Worship His Holy name
Sing like never before
Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name
Yes I'll worship Your Holy name
I'll worship Your Holy name*

Sing like never before

*Oh my soul
I'll worship Your Holy name
Jesus I will worship Your Holy name
Worship Your Holy name*

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Announcements