Text

Description automatically generated **Thanksgiving Eve (B)**

**Wednesday 25 November 2021**

**Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles**

26238 N HWY 59, Wauconda, IL 60084

*www.holyapostleswauconda.net*

***You are encouraged to look at pictures and videos if presented.***

***They tell the story in a different way than the words in front of you.***

***But the words are important too;***

***feel free to take your bulletins with you, or access them on our website.***

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN**

*(We Gather Together – following the introduction, the words for the three verses will be on the screen.)*

**OPENING SENTENCE**

**Presider:** Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

***People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**Presider:** 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.

***People: Amen.***

**PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**Presider:** O Lord, as we prepare to celebrate and give thanks this year, may we find it in our hearts to be grateful no matter what.

***People: May we praise you for what we can do and praise you in spite of what we can't.***

***May we thank you for what is and what isn't, for what is going well and for what is not.***

***May we thank you for what brings us joy and even for that which brings us grief, for if our grief testifies to anything, it testifies to the depths of our love.***

**Presider:** Bless us and keep us, dear God, we pray, and turn our hearts ever and always toward your all-encompassing light; you who are our creator and savior, our redeemer and friend.

***People: Amen.***

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

***People: And also with you.***

**Presider:** 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.

***People: Amen.***

*We read each month from the various biblical translations authorized by our Church. This month we read from the King James Version (1611)*

**FIRST LESSON**  Joel 2:21-27

**Reader:** A reading from Joel. 21Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. 22Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. 23Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. 24And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. 25And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpiller, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. 26And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. 27And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

The Word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

**RESPONSE** *(Please say together in unison)* Psalm 126

***126 When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.***

***2Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them.***

***3The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.***

***4Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south.***

***5They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.***

***6He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.***

**SECOND READING** 1 Timothy 2:1-7

**Reader:**  A reading from 1st Timothy. 2 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. 7Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity. The Word of the Lord.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

**GOSPEL HYMN**

*(Come, Ye Thankful People, Come)*

**GOSPEL**  Matthew 6:25-33

**Presider:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

**Presider:** 25Jesus saith, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 31Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. The Gospel of the Lord.

***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

**SERMON** The Rev. M. C. Gillette

*(A brief period of silence follows the sermon)*

**LITANY OF THANKSGIVING**

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to God for all God’s gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

**Leader:** For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,

***People: We thank you, Lord.***

**Leader:** For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

***People: We thank you, Lord.***

**Leader:**  For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

***People: We thank you, Lord.***

**Leader:** For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

***People: We thank you, Lord.***

**Leader:** For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

***People: We thank you, Lord.***

**Leader:** For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

***People: We thank you, Lord.***

**Leader:** For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

***People: We thank you, Lord.***

**Leader:** For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

***People: We thank you, Lord.***

**Leader:** Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

***People:* *To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.***

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

**Presider:** Brothers and sisters, we have come together to hear God's most holy Word, and to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord. Let us therefore examine ourselves in silence, seeking God's grace that we may draw near to God with repentance and faith.

*Silence.*

**Presider:** Let us pray for God’s forgiveness of our sins. For taking advantage of other's weakness or powerlessness, for taking people for granted, for directly or indirectly hurting or ridiculing people when God's Word says that we have to encourage, build up, equip and bear one another's burdens,

***People: God have mercy and forgive us our sins.***

**Presider:** For our unwillingness to be reformed, so that we can be transformed as a people, as a church and as a community, when God's Word says that we are each not only to look to our own interests, but also to the interests of others, following the example of our Lord Jesus who emptied himself even unto death on the cross,

***People: God have mercy and forgive us our sins.***

**Presider:**  For our lack of honesty and integrity in the life and work of the church, in our society, for our sham and show, for our hypocrisy and double standards, for our lack of priority and perspective, for being preoccupied with life in fragments and at the periphery, when God's Word exhorts us to be occupied with more important matters like justice, mercy and faithfulness,

***People: God have mercy and forgive us our sins.***

**Presider:** The Savior of the world, the refuge of the repentant, forgives and strengthens all who truly seek God’s grace. You are accepted as sons and daughters of the Most High, and set free from the bondage of your past. For Christ died and rose to new life that we might all share his wholeness and abundant life. As God's own people, be merciful in action, kind in heart, humble in mind. Be always ready to forgive as freely as God has forgiven you. And, above everything else, be loving, and never forget to be thankful for what Christ has done for you.

***People: Amen. Thanks be to God.***

**THE PEACE**

**Presider:** Having been forgiven and made whole through our Peacemaker, let us live together in Peace. God's Peace challenges us and guides us towards the acts of justice, peace and integration of the whole creation. Let us greet one another with a word of reconciliation and peace. The peace of the Lord be with you:

***People: And also with you.***

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*(The Presider gives this or another Offertory Sentence)* Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING** Rite II Prayer C

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

***People: And also with you.***

**Presider:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**Presider:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**Presider:** God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

***People: Glory to you for ever and ever.***

**Presider:** At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

***People: By your will they were created and have their being*.**

**Presider:** From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

***People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

**Presider:** Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

***People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.***

**Presider:** And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn.

**SANCTUS** *(Please say together in unison)*

***All: 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.***

**Presider:** And so, dear God, **+** we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. **∞** Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**↑** On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

**↑** After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***All: We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming*.**

**Presider:** Lord God of our Ancestors; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

***People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.***

**Presider:** **↑** Accept these prayers and praises, gracious God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. ***AMEN.***

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**Presider:** As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

***All: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.***

**FRACTION (THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD)**

*(The Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A brief period of silence is kept.)*

**Presider:** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

**Presider:** 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.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Presider:** Let us pray.

***All: Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.***

**BLESSING**

**Presider**: **Presider:** Be of good courage. Hold onto what is good. Return no one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, and help the suffering. In all things, love and serve your Lord. And the blessing of God, the Holy Immortal One, the Incarnate Word, and the Breath of Life, be with you now and remain with you always.

***People: Amen.***

**CLOSING HYMN**

*(America the Beautiful)*

**DISMISSAL**

*(The Presider gives this or another dismissal)*  Go out in the strength of God’s gracious gifts. Live lives worthy of the gospel of Christ. Stand firm in one spirit. Strive with one mind for the faith of the gospel. And may the power and the presence of God go with you. May the Call of Christ lead you into fruitful labor. And may the Holy Spirit fill you with the joy of grace.

***People: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord in the name of Christ. Amen.***

**Cover Image:** https://www.amazon.com/Custom-Decor-Give-Thanks-Lord/dp/B07V96JRBK

**Hymn of Praise**: written by Sarah Buteux.  Posted on MINEmergent’s Daily Communique, January 18, 2013

**Confession of Sin and Peace:** Church of South India Book of Common Worship 2004

**Dismissal:** ©2002 Nathan Nettleton www.laughingbird.net