**Thanksgiving**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*November 22, 2023*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God’s grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

* **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women’s bathroom.

**WORSHIP THEME**

God has given us a good world to live in. We gather today in thankfulness for the gifts of his creation, to ask for his continued protection and preservation, and to delight in the spiritual gifts that he gives to us.

***Evening Prayer***

**HYMN** *Beautiful Savior***| CW 369**

Introduction

P: O Lord, open my lips

**C: And my mouth shall declare your praise.**

P: Hasten to save me, O God.

**C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: O Lord, maker of all things, you open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living creature. We praise you for crowning the fields with your blessings and enabling us once more to gather in the fruits of the earth. Teach us to use your gifts carefully, that our land may continue to yield its fruit; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Psalm: Let my Prayer Rise Before You** *(Sung)*

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense,**

**The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**O Lord, I call to you come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to you.**

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense,**

**The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**GOD’S WORD** *Genesis 1:1–19*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

**HYMN** *Lord of Lords, the Sparkling Heavens***| CW 237**

**GOD’S WORD** *Genesis 1:20–2:1*

And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created mankind in his own image,

in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

**HYMN** *Now Thank We All Our God***| CW 610**

**SERMON** *Genesis 2:2–3*

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

**CONFESSION OF FAITH** *First Article with Luther’s Explanation*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**What does this mean?**

**I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.**

**And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil.**

**All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it.**

**For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.**

**This is most certainly true.**

**OFFERING**

*The offering is an opportunity for us to say “thank you” to God for the Word that we have received today. The offerings gathered will be used to advance the ministry of our congregations.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

L: Gracious God, You give life to the seed, rain to the plant and fruit to the harvest. Receive our thanks for the rich bounty the earth has provided and for the daily bread that supplies all we need for this body and life. Teach us to be generous with Your gifts, willingly sharing with those in need.

 Since we do not live by bread alone but by every Word that comes out of Your mouth, bless those who proclaim Your Word, that we may hear it and live.

 Be gracious to husbands and wives, parents and children. Bless them and make Your face shine upon them, that they may know Your saving power and make Your truth known on the earth to the coming generation.

 Lord of all, Bless President Biden, Governor Newsome, and all who hold high positions among us, that we may lead peaceful and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way.

 Guard in Christ Jesus the hearts and minds of all who suffer in our midst. Grant them health in accord with Your perfect will, and give them Your peace that surpasses all understanding.

 We give You thanks, O God, for the saints who have gone before us, in whose lives Your great faithfulness is shown. Grant us faith like theirs, which trusts in Your enduring Word, that we also may be found faithful by the next generation of believers.

 O Lord, teach us the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need, helping us to do all things through Christ who strengthens us. It is in his name we join to 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.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory**

 **are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you;

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

 The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING SONG** *God Who Made the Earth and Heaven***| CW 590**



**13009 N. Elderberry Ct.**

**Lodi, CA 95242**

[www.christlodi.org](http://www.christlodi.org)

209-368-6250

Pastor Timothy Leistekow

**WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace

through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities

both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

**Look what Christ is doing!**

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

He sends us out with the gospel

*“Now you are the body of Christ,*

*and each one of you is a part of it.”*

*(1 Corinthians 12:27)*