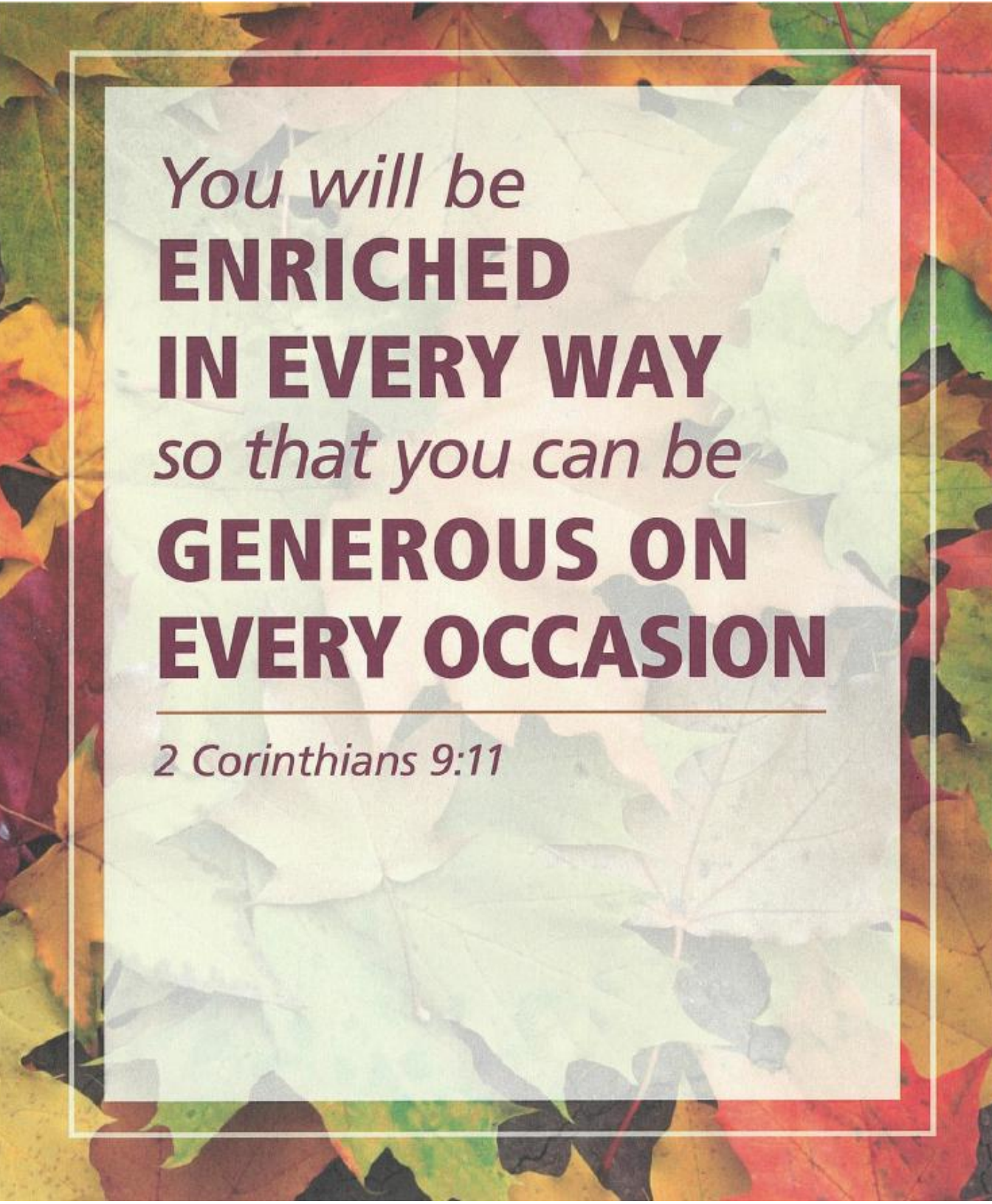

You will be
ENRICHED
IN EVERY WAY
so that you can be
GENEROUS ON
EVERY OCCASION
2 Corinthians 9:11

Welcome!

We are honored that you are with us today. May the Word of God that you hear strengthen your faith and increase your desire to serve the Lord! If you are a guest today, we are thankful you have joined us. We hope that you will join us again soon.

For your convenience

For your convenience, please take note of the following:

Connection card
During the offering we ask that you complete an online connection card.

- **Restrooms** are to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Nursery.** There is a room where children may be quieted to the left down the hall across from the bathrooms as you exit the sanctuary. A television allows you to see and hear the service.
- **Children's worship notes** are available. Ask an usher.
- **Hearing assistance.** A hearing loop is available in the worship area for hearing aids equipped with a T-coil.

If there is any other way in which we can assist you, let us know.

The service is streamed live online at elctempe.org/worship.

For the latest information about services schedules, please visit elctempe.org.

Thanksgiving — November 25-26, 2026

Praise God, our Maker and Provider

Look at the blessings you enjoy. Look at your family and friends, who love you. Consider the roof over your head, the transportation you use to get around, the food in your refrigerator, the electronic devices in your home and at your fingertips. Reflect upon your health, the air you breathe, the sunshine you soak in, the sunsets you marvel at.

These are all gifts from God. He made you. He gave you your life, your body, your talents. He provides for your daily needs generously and abundantly. For all of these gifts and more, we give God thanks. He made us. He cares for us.

But God's greatest love for you isn't shown to you in the car he's given you to drive, in the food he's given you to eat, or even in good health and pleasant days.

God has redeemed you. God's greatest gift to you is his grace, his undeserved love shown in Jesus your Savior. He has worked repentance and faith in your heart, and he refreshes you daily with forgiveness, comfort, joy, peace, and the promise of eternal life with him.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His love endures forever!

Thanksgiving and Praise

Pre-Service Music

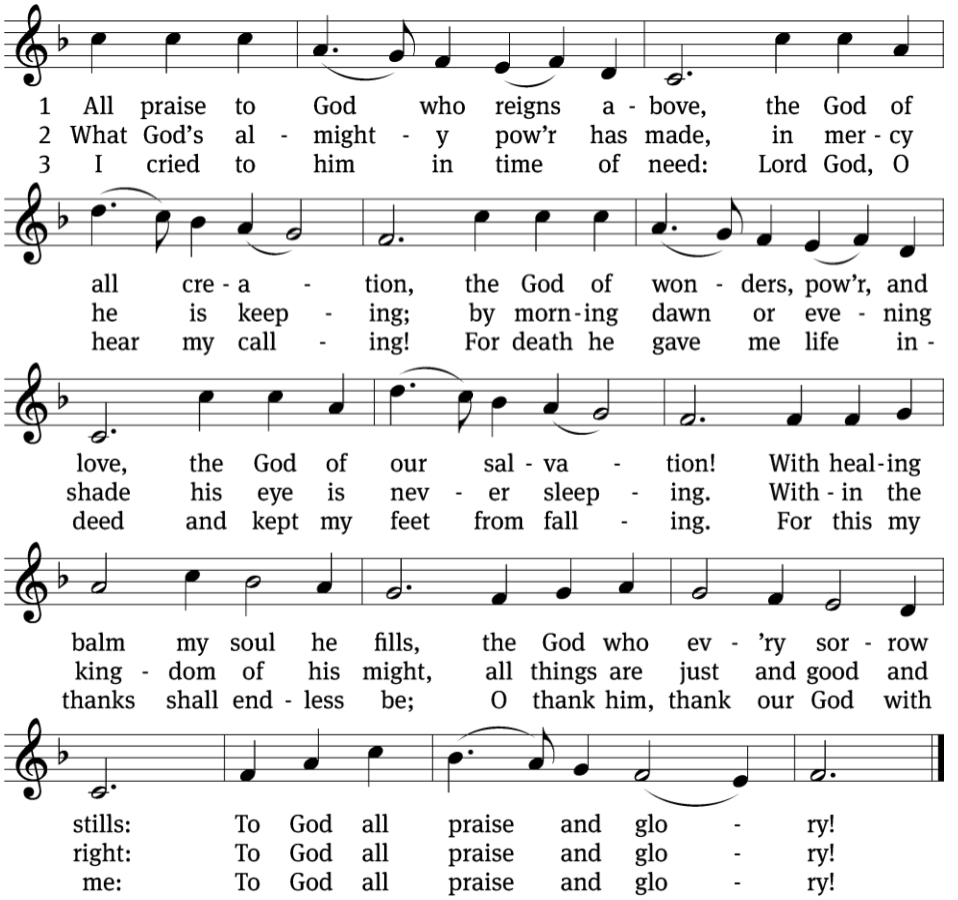
Now Thank We All Our God
Paul Manz, Michael Burkhardt

For the Beauty of the Earth
Carol Tornquist

Give Thanks
Phillip Keverin

Opening Hymn

603 All Praise to God Who Reigns Above



Please stand for stanza 4 on the next page.

Stanza 4:

The Lord will not forsake his flock, his chosen generation;
he is their refuge and their rock, their peace and their salvation
As with a mother's tender hand he leads his own, his chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

Invocation

*During our services, the congregation speaks the responses in **bold**.*

The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you.

Dialog for Thanksgiving

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD. Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us.

Let us approach his presence with thanksgiving. With music we will shout to him.

For the LORD is the great God,
and the great King above all gods.

He holds the unexplored places of the earth in his hand, and the peaks of the mountains belong to him.

The sea belongs to him, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow down. Let us revere him. Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker,

for he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the flock in his hand.

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and great in mercy.

The LORD is good to all. His compassion extends over all he has made.

The eyes of all look eagerly to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.

He opens his hand, and he satisfies the desire of every living thing.

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD.

Let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Response of Praise

603 All Praise to God Who Reigns Above
Stanza 5

All who confess Christ's holy name, to God give praise and glory!
Let all who know his pow'r proclaim aloud the wondrous story!
All idols under foot be trod— The Lord is God! The Lord is God!
To God all praise and glory!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:
Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Be seated.

First Lesson

Genesis 8:18-22

Noah thanked the Lord God for delivering him from the flood and renewing his creation.

18 Noah went out with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives along with him.

19 Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever swarms on the earth went out of the ship, species by species.

20 Noah built an altar to the LORD and took from every clean animal and every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21 The LORD smelled the pleasant aroma. The LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the soil anymore because of man, for the thoughts he forms in his heart are evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike every living thing, as I have done. 22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

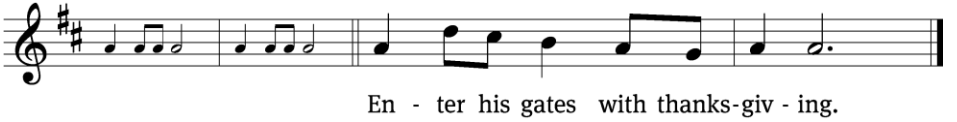
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Psalm of the Day

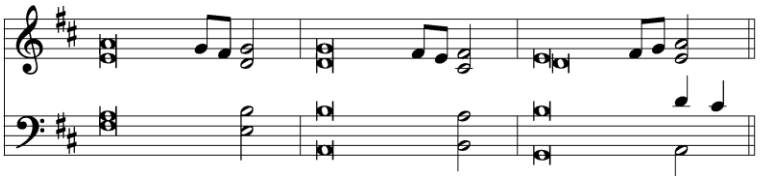
Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving

The congregation sings the psalm and the refrain. Psalm 100A

Refrain



Tone



Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. ***Refrain***

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good
and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen. ***Refrain***

Second Lesson

James 1:16-18

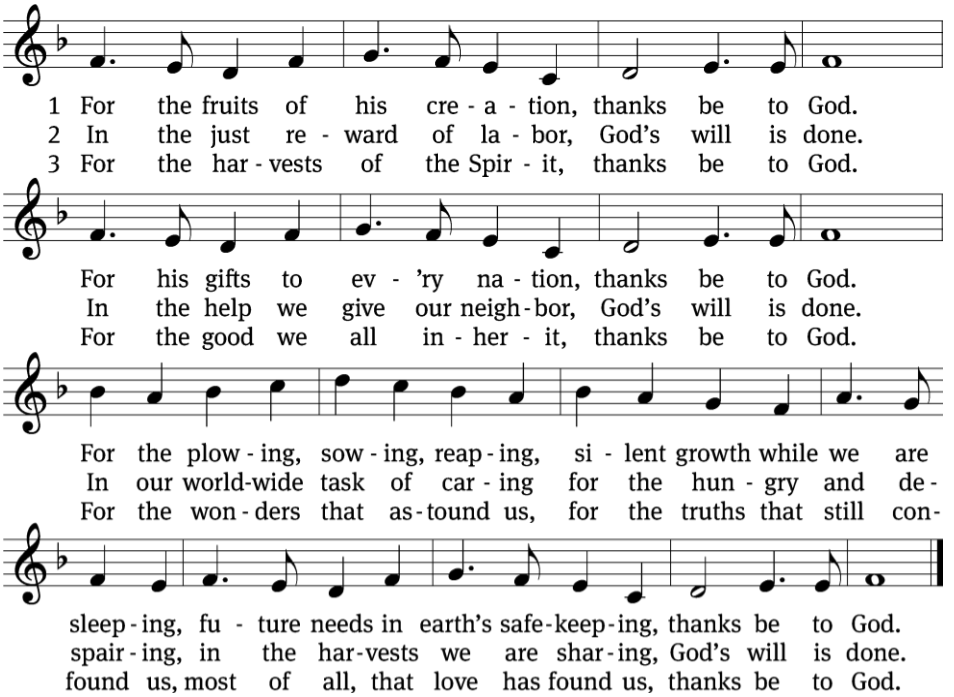
Thank the Lord for making us a special part of his creation, devoted to giving him praise.

16 Do not be deceived, my dear brothers. 17 Every good act of giving and every
perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the lights, who does
not change or shift like a shadow. 18 Just as he planned, he gave us birth by the
word of truth so that we would be a kind of firstfruits of his creations.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Response

506 For the Fruits of His Creation



Please stand.

Gospel

Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus responded to Jesus' salvation with a thankful and generous heart.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man named Zacchaeus was
there. He was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 He was trying to see who
Jesus was, but since he was short, he could not see because of the crowd. 4 He ran
on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus, because he was about
to pass by that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to
him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today."
6 He came down quickly and welcomed Jesus joyfully. 7 When the people saw it,
they were all grumbling because he went to be a guest of a sinful man.

8 Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I am going to give half of
my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone out of anything, I will
pay back four times as much."

9 Jesus said to him, "Today, salvation has come to this house, because he too is a
son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day

600 All Praise to Him

Sermon

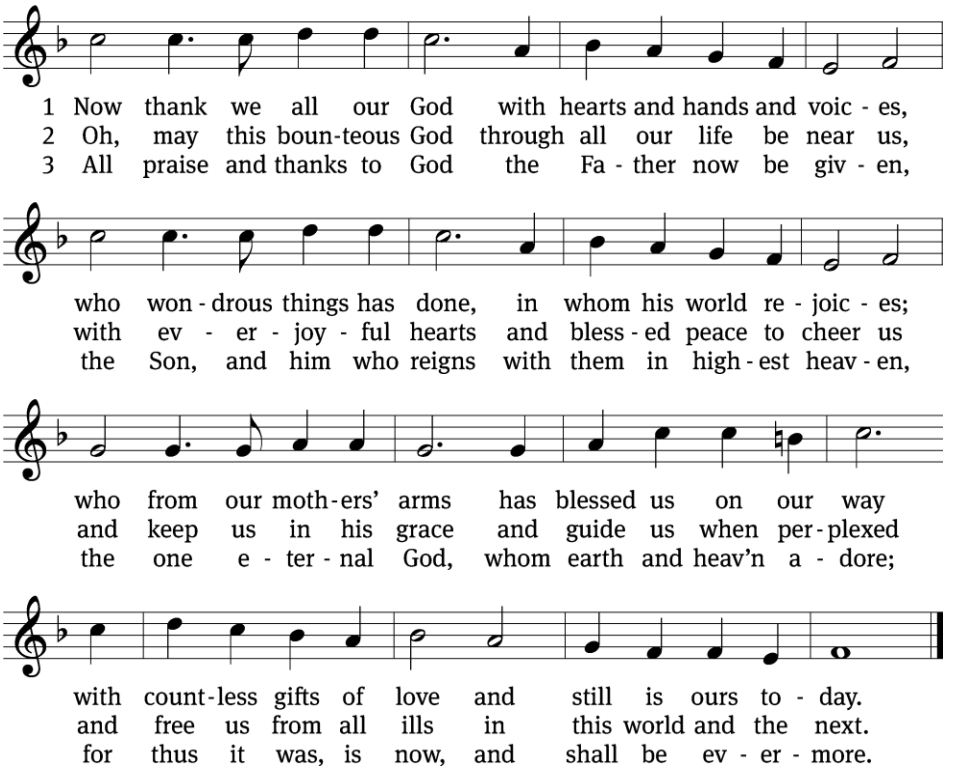
Genesis 8:18-22

Give thanks to the Lord for sparing your life!

Please stand.

Hymn Response

597 Now Thank We All Our God



Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed: First Article
Explanation from Martin Luther's Small Catechism

We confess God our Creator in the First Article of the Apostles' Creed.
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.

Be seated.

Offering

Musical Offering

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Marilyn Arison

During the offering, please fill out a Connection Card, using either the card in your pew or the QR code. After the offering, please stand.

Give online
If you prefer online giving, you may scan this code.

Connection card
During the offering we ask that you complete an online connection card.

Prayer of the Church for Thanksgiving

Eternal Father, you have graciously given us this good land as our heritage. We confess that good government, favorable weather, faithful friends, godly neighbors and kindly family are all your gifts. Give us hearts that rightly look to you to bless and preserve us and all things. Defend and protect our nation from every foe and evil. Let our gratitude for the bountiful blessings you have given us so generously flow freely from our lips and in our lives. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you created and still uphold all creation by the power of your Word. Stretch out your hand to bless and preserve all that you have made. Thank you for the fruits of the earth, which have been gathered from the fields, orchards, gardens, flocks and herds of this fertile land. Thank you for all the gifts of body and soul that enrich and bless our lives. Lead us to receive them all from you with generous hearts and open hands. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, you have given and still preserve for us our bodies and souls, and all that we are, and all that we have. Give us wisdom to wisely and faithfully use these material blessings, which you have so generously entrusted to our use. Help us to regard this bounty as gifts from your hand, not possessions we have earned. Free us to employ them, not for selfish gain or personal glory, but always for the good of our neighbor and the glory of your holy name. Open our hearts to richly support the work of the gospel, that your kingdom of grace may be extended to all the peoples, tongues and nations of the earth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you have graciously given us your Word and Sacraments, by which you have called us to faith in Christ, forgiven our sin and strengthened us against the wiles of the ancient enemy. Grant us grace to value these heavenly treasures above all things, that you may ever be the source of our greatest joy, the true and abiding light of our lives, and the constant consolation that upholds us both in times of prosperity and adversity. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Living Lord, you are the strength of the weak, the hope of the dying and the life of all the living. Visit with compassion those in any need, trial or affliction.

Special intercessions.

Comfort them now as you comforted your people in the past, remembering them with the favor you have shown us in your Son, who took all our suffering into himself, that we may find comfort in his cross. Care for those who care for them, and guide us all so that we, too, may take up our neighbors' burdens and give them the consolation you first have shared with us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Be seated.

Hymn

619 Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him

Please stand.

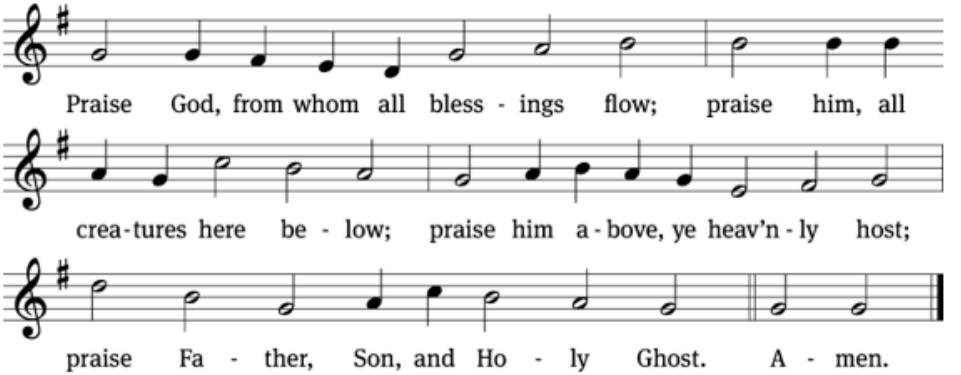
The Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
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.
Amen.

Please remain standing for the closing hymn.

Closing Hymn

617 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Be seated.

Serving at Worship

Minister	Pastor Gary A. Pufahl
Organ	Kurt Rosenbaum
Video streamer and slides (9:00 a.m.)	Colton and Lauren Sallquist
Video captions (9:00 a.m.)	Chris Wempner
Sound (9:00 a.m.)	Jacob Sallquist

Acknowledgments

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In our prayers

- Andy Galyen, uncle of Alicia Phillips, dealing with health concerns.
- Chris Heise – Home recovering.
- Kaylee – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Scott Trautman – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Bill Welker – Receiving treatments for cancer.
- Bill Zidar – Receiving treatments for cancer.

Ushers

6:30 p.m.	Glenn Derge, Eli Gruman, Al and Will Meihak
9:00 a.m.	Matt Heyn, Dave and Paul Kuether, Steve Meyers

This week at Emmanuel

Wednesday	
Thanksgiving Eve worship service	6:30 p.m.
Adult choir	No practice
Thursday-Friday	
ELS Thanksgiving break	No school
Thursday	
Thanksgiving Day	Church office closed
Thursday Bible study at Denny's	No class
Thanksgiving Day worship service	9:00 a.m.
God's Ways Bible study	No class
Bible Basics class	No class
Friday	
Day after holiday	Church office closed
Saturday	
Decorate church and MEC for Christmas	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 29	
Worship services	8:00 and 10:30 a.m.
In-person adult Bible study	No classes
Sunday school, teen and junior high Bible study	No classes
Public school Catechism	No class

Looking ahead

November 30	ELS Thanksgiving break ends	Classes resume
December 1	Communications meeting	6:30 p.m.
	Stewardship meeting	8:00 p.m.

December 2	Midweek Advent worship	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent meal	4:45-6:15 p.m.
	Adult choir	7:30 p.m.
December 5	Elders' meeting	7:30-9:00 a.m.
	Invitation handout: Christmas	9:00-11:00 a.m.
	Joy Fellowship at Barleens Dinner Show	11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
December 6	Emmanuel Lutheran Church's 75th anniversary	
	Adult Bible study, Sunday school, teen Bible study	No classes
	Emmanuel's 75th anniversary celebration	9:15 a.m.
		Fellowship and presentation
	Advent by Candlelight	2:00-4:00 p.m.
December 8	School Board meeting	6:00 p.m.
	Grief Share – Surviving the Holidays	6:00-8:00 p.m.
	Special Voters' meeting in the sanctuary	6:30 p.m.
December 9	Midweek Advent worship	3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
	Midweek Advent meal	4:45-6:15 p.m.
	Adult choir	7:30 p.m.
December 12	Emmanuel teen night	5:00-8:00 p.m.
December 13	Emmanuel fellowship night: Carols & Cocoa	4:00-6:00 p.m.

Notes and News

Connection card
During the offering we ask that you complete an online connection card.

Connection cards

The connection cards serve a valuable purpose in helping us serve you better. We ask all our worshipers to help us serve you by scanning the QR code, by going to elctempe.org/connect, or by filling out one of the cards in the pews. Thank you!

Mr. Kevin Bode receives call

On Sunday, October 18, our part-time 5th-grade teacher and part-time music director Kevin Bode received a divine call from St. Matthew in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. He is called to be full-time music coordinator in the church. Keep Mr. Bode in your prayers as he considers where best to serve the Lord.

Hanging of the Greens

Please join us this Saturday, November 28, as we gather to decorate the sanctuary, courtyard and MEC (Ministry and Education Center) for Christmas. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. with lunch served at noon. If you can come for a part of the time or for the whole time, your help is appreciated and needed. We especially need individuals willing to climb ladders. Scan the QR code to RSVP so we can plan accordingly for lunch. Plan to join us on November 28 for lots of decorating fun! Contact Karen Henriksen at (602) 301-6243 for any questions.

Christmas decorating day

Midweek Advent services and meals

Our midweek Advent services start next Wednesday, December 2, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m. for three weeks. In our midweek Advent worship, we will reflect upon **The Perfect Present** that God gives us at Christmas. Join the pre-service medley of seasonal songs to get into the holiday spirit, and let your heart soar in anticipation of welcoming our coming Savior! We will also serve a meal between the services. More information to come.

Mission to the Children | Christmas drive

We are once again planning to share Christmas joy with the children of Sonora, Mexico. We are partnering with Mission to the Children to collect Christmas toys and hygiene products. Visit the bulletin board in the church lobby and choose one or more gift tags. Each tag is labeled for the type of gift and the age of the recipient. Purchase your gift and bring it to church unwrapped, with the tag attached, by Wednesday, December 3. Mission to the Children will distribute your gifts to the recipients in Sonora.

Mission to the Children exists to make disciples for Christ and is solely supported by the thoughtful donations from individuals, congregations and church groups, and works in cooperation with approved mission activities of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. You can learn more about Mission to the Children by visiting their website: missiontothechildren.org.

Thank you for helping make Christmas a little brighter for the less fortunate families Mission to the Children serve in southern Arizona and northern Mexico!

Invite our neighbors to Jesus' birthday

As the shepherds did so long ago, running through the streets telling everyone the good news of what they had heard and seen, it is our time to do the same. On Saturday, December 5, we will meet in the Ministry and Education Center at 9:00 a.m. to distribute maps and materials. Then we will walk the neighborhoods with invitations inviting our neighbors to come join all the activities proclaiming the birth of our Savior. Please come walk with us! Any questions, contact Benjamin Ruppel at bruppel@elctempe.org.

Special congregational voters meeting

We will have a special congregational voters meeting on Tuesday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m. The Church Council is recommending that we call a pastor and a seventh-grade teacher. They also recommend calling Mrs. Hahnke and Mrs. Willis to teach for the 2027-2028 school year. Additionally, the Council is recommending some tuition increases for the 2027-2028 school year. Please join us for this important meeting.

About Us

Emmanuel Lutheran Church shares the love of Jesus and the truth of his saving Word with the people in our church, our community and the world.

The objectives of our mission are:

- To **preach**, by proclaiming the Word of God, as we worship and praise God in a loving Christian atmosphere;
- To **teach**, by fostering an ongoing increase in knowledge and maturity in God's Word;
- To **reach**, by sharing the Gospel of God's Word with all people, and to do so;
- By **each** member actively participating in our ministry.

Pastor Gary A. Pufahl
gpufahl@elctempe.org
(262) 744-1619

Pastor Daniel R. Gensmer
dgensmer@elctempe.org
(615) 887-3816

Pastor Jon D. Buchholz
jonbuchholz@msn.com
(602) 377-1915

Pastor Daniel D. Pautz
danpautz7@gmail.com
(480) 766-2994

Church Secretary Alysha Bergsma
church@elctempe.org
(480) 967-3983

Principal Craig Kiecker
ckiecker@elstempe.org
(623) 313-5614

Music Director Kevin Bode
kbode@elstempe.org
(480) 694-3532

Financial Operations Mgr. Darcy Meyer
treasurer@elctempe.org
(480) 344-3783

School Secretary Amani Campos
school@elstempe.org
(480) 967-3991

Member Ministry Coordinator
Benjamin Ruppel
bruppel@elctempe.org
(480) 967-3983

Emmanuel Lutheran Church is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

715 West Southern Avenue
Tempe, Arizona 85282
(480) 967-3983 church • (480) 967-3991 school
church@elctempe.org
www.elctempe.org

WELS Christian Aid and Relief

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11).

We are rich! God has showered us with riches for both body and soul—not simply so that we can enjoy his gifts, but so that we can share them with others. Paul reminds the Corinthians that God makes them "rich in every way" so they can be generous "on every occasion."

Notice where the focus lies: not on what we have, but on what God enables us to do with what we have. Our time, abilities, possessions, and opportunities are all gifts from his gracious hand. When we use those gifts to serve others, something beautiful happens. Our generosity points beyond us to the God who provided everything in the first place. When we show compassion, it brings him glory.

The greatest treasure God has given us is Jesus. Through Christ, God has given us forgiveness, peace, and the sure hope of eternal life. We could never repay such a gift—and we don't have to. Instead, filled with gratitude, we are free to give generously and joyfully. Thanks be to God!

Grant Summary

For Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Disaster Relief: $471,051 of your generous gifts were utilized to help people affected by disasters both in the United States and around the world.

Humanitarian Aid: $426,054 went toward humanitarian aid projects in partnership with WELS Home and World Missions. These dollars help provide clean drinking, food, medical care, school supplies, and many other needs. In addition, $67,347 was utilized through our Community Care and Compassion matching grants program to assist WELS congregations in sharing compassion with their communities.

Personal Relief Grants: $387,274 funded grants for members and prospects of our congregations experiencing a medical or financial crisis.

Total: God richly blessed us so that we could share more than $1.3 million of our riches with people in need. To him alone be all the glory!

To learn more, make a donation, or volunteer, visit **wels.net/relief** and like us on Facebook at **fb.com/WELSChristianAidandRelief**. If a need arises for humanitarian aid or disaster relief in your area, please contact Director Rev. Daniel Sims.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief
daniel.sims@wels.net · 414-256-3204
N16W23377 Stone Ridge Drive · Waukesha, WI

WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.