



Seventh & James Baptist Church
November 19, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Many: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; the steadfast love of God endures forever.

One: For the laughter and the joy we hear echoing down our pre-school hallway, for the way we recognize their parents in our growing children's faces, and for the beauty of our teenagers becoming young men and women, O God, we give you thanks.

Many: O give thanks to the God of gods, for the steadfast love of God endures forever.

One: For the wisdom and experience of our gray-haired saints, for the glorious praise of our music, for the salty endurance of our missions, for the way we've come to know You in this place, O God, we give you thanks.

All: We give You thanks, our Lord of lords, for your steadfast love endures forever. Rooted firmly in your grace, our hearts are indeed grateful.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Katie Cook

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Naymond Keathley

Epistle Reading

Colossians 2:6-10

Carolyn Keathley

Hymn, No. 376

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

Gospel Reading

Luke 17:11-19

Matt Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God's People

Matt Rosencrans

Offertory

“We Gather Together”

Netherlands Folk Song
arr. Don Hustad & Tedd Smith

Donnie Balmos, *piano*

Lydia Bratcher, *organ*

During the offertory, we invite you to prayerfully consider your stewardship of all the resources God is entrusting to you. The work of God at Seventh & James is dependent on the financial generosity and volunteer service of its members and friends. Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship. Join us as you respond to God's call.

Doxology, No. 707

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Sermon.
Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.*

Responsive Reading of Psalm 65

Scott Turner

One: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed, O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.

Many: When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.

One: Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

Many: By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

One: By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

Many: You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.

One: Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

Many: You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

One: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

Many: You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

One: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

All: The meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

Anthem**“Canticle of Thanksgiving”**

John Rutter

Benedictus Dominus: Lord, we thank you for all creation,
We worship you, we honor you, we bless your Holy Name forever.
Lord, you were there before the hills and mountains.

You formed the earth; you made the sea and sky;

You are God, our strength and our salvation, through a thousand ages passing by.

The earth is yours, and all that is within it, You gave it life and every gift so fair;
In the wealth and wonder of creation, You were there, Lord, you were there.

Lord, we are called as servants in your kingdom to do your work, and not to seek for rest,
Share each load, and bear each other’s burdens, that our lives may be forever blest.

Lord, you are there in gentleness and goodness, in kindly thoughts and quiet words of prayer;
In the love which binds us all together, You are there, Lord, you are there.

Lord, who can tell the greatness of your glory, or who can sing the fullness of your praise?
You are God: immortal and eternal. Grant us strength to serve you all our days.

Through all the years your goodness never fails us: in times of joy and days of dark despair,
You were there, the One who never changes; You were there, Lord.

You still are there, Lord. You will be there, Lord. You always will be there.

Sermon**“Abounding in Thanksgiving”**

Erin Conaway

*(Colossians 2:6-10)***Silent Reflection**

To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything He has given us — and He has given us everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love, every moment of existence is grace, for it brings with us immense graces from Him. Gratitude therefore takes nothing for granted, is never unresponsive, is constantly awakening to new wonder and to praise of the goodness of God. For the grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by experience. And that is what makes all the difference.

— Thomas Merton, *Thoughts in Solitude*, p. 33

Hymn of Commitment, No. 371**“Now Thank We All Our God”**

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers
will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.*

Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God's grace. Amen.

Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

Choral Benediction

“Simple Gifts and Doxology”
from *The Journey*

Joseph Martin

Euridice Alvarez, *oboe*

‘Tis a gift to be simple, ‘tis a gift to be free, ‘tis a gift to come down where you ought to be.
And when we find ourselves in the place just right, ‘twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed.
To turn, turn will be our delight, ‘til by turning, turning we come round right.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Postlude

“Now Thank We All Our God” Op. 65, No. 59

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Donnie Balmos.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given as an act of gratitude towards the love and service of the Seventh & James staff and ministry.

Hearing devices are available at the sound booth for any who need assistance.

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