

*Gifts - A Service of Thanksgiving and Commitment by Ann Weems*  
November 19, 2023

**Prelude** "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" Composer: Doris Akers (1923-1995)

**Welcome** Pastor Julie

**Call to Worship** Jan Thedens

**\*Opening Hymn #664** *Morning Has Broken*

**\*Litany of Celebration** Pastor Julie

L: Praise the name of God, who breathed life into our bodies.

**P: Praise the name of God, who gave us a garden**

L: Praise the name of God, who saved us from the flood

**P: Who gave us a rainbow,**

L: Who sent us a dove,

**P: Who promised to be our God,**

L: For we would be God's people.

**P: Praise the name of God, who led us out of bondage,**

L: Who parted the Red Sea and sent manna,

**P: Who sent the prophets,**

L: Who called us from chaos to shalom

**P: Praise the name of God, who sent the Son.**

L: All praise to God almighty!

**P: Praise the name of God, who stills the waters,**

L: Who gives us bread,

**P: Who generously pours wine,**

L: Who raises us from the dead;

**P: Who never ceases looking for lost lambs,**

L: Who saves us from self-righteousness,

**P: Who heals our broken bodies,**

L: Who calls us from our religiosity,

**P: Who challenges us to throw the first stone,**

L: Who gives us a cup of cold water

**P: And asks us to do the same for others,**

L: Who call us out of shadows into a new Light;

**P: Who gives us in Christ a new commandment:**

L: Love one another.

**P: Praise the name of God who weeps with us and laughs with us and calls us to believe.**

L: Praise the Lord God almighty!

**Time for Wonder**

Pastor Julie

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**We Bless One Another**

Pastor Julie

**Scripture Reading**

a reading *from Psalm 36*

John Luzaich

Lord, your constant love reaches the heavens;  
Your faithfulness extends to the skies.  
Your righteousness is towering like the mountains;  
Your justice is like the depths of the sea.  
People and animals are in your care.  
How precious, O God, is your constant love!  
We find protection under the shadow of your wings.  
We feast on the abundant food you provide.  
You let us drink from the river of your goodness.  
You are the source of all life, and because of your light we see the light.

One: The word of God for the people of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

One: Let's join together singing hymn 336, "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing"

**HYMN 336**

*We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing*

**Gratitude for Others**

"TO YOU!" by Ann Weems

Jan Thedens

**Round of Thanks**

"For all those others in our lives, we give you thanks, O Lord."

**Gratitude for God's Gifts**

"Gifts from God" by Ann Weems

Pastor Julie

**Hymn 59**

"The Steadfast Love of the Lord"

**Our Response in Praise & Thanks**

John Luzaich

"Christmas Trees and Strawberry Summers" By Ann Weems

**Offering Invitation and Dedication**

Jan Thedens

**Offertory Response #606**

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

**Prayers of the People**

Pastor Julie

We praise you, God, for seeds that take food from the soil and water from the rain,  
to grow into corn and apple trees and lettuce.

We thank you for the growing seasons, the spring rains,  
followed by summer sun and fall harvests.

We Pray...**Give us today our daily bread.**

We ask you to watch over farmers who plant and care for crops,

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and scientists who work to improve our crops.  
Teach us to work within your plan to produce food for the whole world.  
We Pray...**Give us today our daily bread.**

Lord, guide and direct those who haul food from farms to hungry people,  
those who operate grocery stores,  
and political leaders who decide how much food goes to which people.  
Give them energy, wisdom, and compassion.  
We Pray...**Give us today our daily bread.**

We pray for people who are hungry.  
Whether they are hungry because of famines or floods or wars or poverty or unfair governments,  
be with them.  
Support them and help us find ways to share our food with them.  
We Pray...**Give us today our daily bread.**

And now, God, we pray the entirety of the prayer that Jesus taught us...

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Creator in heaven, holy is your name, your kin-dom 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.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

<b>Song</b>	<i>"Day by Day" Godspell</i>	Praise Team
<b>Our Life Together</b>		Pastor Julie
<b>Sending Hymn #35</b>	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	
<b>Prayer for the Meal</b>		
<b>Benediction &amp; Charge</b>		Pastor Julie
<b>Postlude</b>	"To You, O Lord, I Will Sing Praises"	Composer: August Reinhard (1831-1912)