



## MORRISON ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

November 24, 2022  
Thanksgiving

Pastor Randy Ott

Welcome to worship today at Morrison Zion Lutheran Church. We exist to glorify God. We have set out to do this by gathering around the Gospel so that we may grow in the Gospel and go to others with this Gospel.

### ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING... FOR REPENTANCE

We enter God's gates with thanksgiving for repentance—for God opening our eyes to see (through His Word) that we cannot save ourselves, that we are sinners and that salvation has to come from outside of us.

#### Romans 3:9-20

<sup>9</sup> What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin.

<sup>10</sup> As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one;

<sup>11</sup> there is no one who understands;  
there is no one who seeks God.

<sup>12</sup> All have turned away,  
they have together become worthless;  
there is no one who does good,  
not even one."

<sup>13</sup> "Their throats are open graves;  
their tongues practice deceit."  
"The poison of vipers is on their lips."

<sup>14</sup> "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness."

<sup>15</sup> "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

<sup>16</sup> ruin and misery mark their ways,

<sup>17</sup> and the way of peace they do not know."

<sup>18</sup> "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

## **ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING... FOR JESUS OUR REDEEMER**

We enter God's gates with thanksgiving for Jesus our Redeemer. In our next reading we hear how He left heaven to become one of us, to redeem us.

### **Hebrews 2:11-3:6**

<sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> He says,

"I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the assembly I will sing your praises."

<sup>13</sup> And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again he says,

"Here am I, and the children God has given me."

<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

**3** Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. <sup>2</sup> He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. <sup>3</sup> Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. <sup>4</sup> For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. <sup>5</sup> "Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house," bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. <sup>6</sup> But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

## **ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING... FOR FAITH**

We enter His gates with thanksgiving for the gift of faith. It comes from God. It doesn't come from us, but it makes the work of Christ our own personally.

### **Romans 3:21-28**

<sup>21</sup> But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— <sup>26</sup> he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. <sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

## **WE ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING... FOR THE WORD**

We enter God's gates with thanksgiving for the Word that we gather around. His Word brings us to faith, strengthens our faith and guides us in how we thank our Lord for the gift of salvation.

### **Psalms 119:9-16**

How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

<sup>10</sup> I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands.

<sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you.

<sup>12</sup> Praise be to you, Lord;

teach me your decrees.

<sup>13</sup> With my lips I recount

all the laws that come from your mouth.

<sup>14</sup> I rejoice in following your statutes

as one rejoices in great riches.

<sup>15</sup> I meditate on your precepts

and consider your ways.  
<sup>16</sup> I delight in your decrees;  
I will not neglect your word.

### **WE ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING... FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER**

We enter God's gates with thanksgiving for the gift of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. It's an intimate connection with our Savior for the forgiveness of our sins.

#### **1 Corinthians 10:14-17, 11:23-26**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup> I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. <sup>16</sup> Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup> Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### **WE ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING... FOR PHYSICAL BLESSINGS**

We enter God's gates with thanksgiving for all the physical blessings that He pours out on us day after day.

#### **Psalms 104:1, 10-15, 27, 28, 33, 34**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, my soul.  
Lord my God, you are very great;  
you are clothed with splendor and majesty.  
<sup>10</sup> He makes springs pour water into the ravines;  
it flows between the mountains.  
<sup>11</sup> They give water to all the beasts of the field;  
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.  
<sup>12</sup> The birds of the sky nest by the waters;  
they sing among the branches.  
<sup>13</sup> He waters the mountains from his upper chambers;  
the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.  
<sup>14</sup> He makes grass grow for the cattle,

and plants for people to cultivate—  
bringing forth food from the earth:  
<sup>15</sup> wine that gladdens human hearts,  
oil to make their faces shine,  
and bread that sustains their hearts.  
<sup>27</sup> All creatures look to you  
to give them their food at the proper time.  
<sup>28</sup> When you give it to them,  
they gather it up;  
when you open your hand,  
they are satisfied with good things.  
<sup>33</sup> I will sing to the Lord all my life;  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.  
<sup>34</sup> May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
as I rejoice in the Lord.

**WE ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING...  
FOR HELP IN TIMES OF TROUBLE**

We live in a fallen world and we face challenges and difficulties so we enter God's gates with thanksgiving because of His promises of help in times of trouble.

**[Psalm 31:1-5, 23, 24](#)**

<sup>1</sup> In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.  
<sup>2</sup> Turn your ear to me,  
come quickly to my rescue;  
be my rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress to save me.  
<sup>3</sup> Since you are my rock and my fortress,  
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.  
<sup>4</sup> Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,  
for you are my refuge.  
<sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commit my spirit;  
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.  
<sup>23</sup> Love the Lord, all his faithful people!  
The Lord preserves those who are true to him,  
but the proud he pays back in full.  
<sup>24</sup> Be strong and take heart,  
all you who hope in the Lord.

## **WE ENTER HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING... FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE OUR FAITH**

We enter God's gates with thanksgiving for opportunities to share our faith that our Lord places in front of us day after day.

### **1 Peter 3:8-18**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

<sup>10</sup> For,

"Whoever would love life  
and see good days  
must keep their tongue from evil  
and their lips from deceitful speech.

<sup>11</sup> They must turn from evil and do good;  
they must seek peace and pursue it.

<sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous  
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,  
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

<sup>13</sup> Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." <sup>15</sup> But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

<sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. <sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

***And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*** (Philippians 4:7) Amen.