

Lift Up Your Hearts in Praise!

Here we are in the eleventh month of the Year of our Lord 2019 and perhaps we need a nudge and reminder to lift up our hearts to praise the Lord. The month of November, of course, is a good time for us to recall all the good gifts that God showers on us children of men.

If truth be told, we have many blessings to thank the Lord for. (Important Note: We will gather in God's House Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00 p.m. for this specific reason.) Okay, do it now, mark the date on your desk calendar and add our Thanksgiving Eve Service time to the calendar in your cell phone and intentionally set it aside for you and your family to join us in God's House and lift up your hearts in praise to the Lord!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! We are surrounded by a loving church family who encourage and support us; we have a church home, where we hear the Word of Life – the Good News of Jesus Christ – baptize our babies, and feed on Christ's body and blood. At St. Paul, we are blessed with a Word and Sacrament ministry, a Pre-school, and an extraordinary youth program that others are envious of. Lift up your hearts anew in praise for our congregational ministry and praise the Lord with us at our upcoming Thanksgiving Eve Service.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Truly we are blessed by God. We are able to greet our children and loved ones each morning in person or, if we desire to do so, greet our grown children by the marvels of social media. What a gift! Praise the Lord and lift up your hearts in praise to God for your wife, children, and extended family!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! We have jobs that provide us far more than daily bread and provide us with a lot of extras. God opens His hands and satisfies every creature, permitting us to give freely of our first fruits to Him and still have nine-tenths to support our families and assist the needy in our midst. Lift up your hearts in praise to God for food and drink, house and home, wife, children, and land, animals, and money!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! We each have daily tasks to fulfill, whether we're in the prime of life going to work daily or retired and serving on community organizations, making quilts at church, visiting the sick and shut-in, or running grandkids to sporting events. Lift up your hearts in praise to God for the gift of work and service!

In spite of a rough winter, a difficult spring, an uneven summer, and setbacks to the fall harvest on account of rain, we're still blessed as farmers and businessmen relying on an ag-based community. So let's us not forget God's goodness on Thanksgiving Eve but joyfully lift up our hearts in praise to God!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! The love of the Lord endures forever; forget not all His benefits. If He does not take His eyes off the sparrow, then, He certainly will not overlook you or the physical and spiritual needs of your family members.

He sees your troubles and sorrows, collecting the tears you cry, noticing the heartaches you endure, and patiently bearing the sins you commit in thought, word, and deed against Him and your neighbor. He springs into action to save you by sending His Son into the world to bear your burdens and sins and promises to return and take you and all believers in Him to heaven. So, lift up your hearts in praise!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! God took on your blood, sweat, and tears and became fully human to save you. As your Redeemer, He was tempted in every way that you are so that He might be the faithful High Priest whom the Old Testament prophets foretold and intercede for you before His Father in heaven. He bore your sins on the cross, shedding His blood, sweating under its weight, and wept over Jerusalem (you) and removed all your sins as far as the west is from the east.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, and join us on Thanksgiving Eve in God's House, recalling all these good gifts from God as we lift up our hearts in praise Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00 p.m.

– Pastor Cliff Adair

