

Pastor Brian's  
Mid Week Message  
July 14, 2021

**"THANKS BE TO GOD!"**

*Give thanks in every circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* (1 Thessalonians 5:18)  
I don't remember if I've written about this here at Trinity Lutheran Church of SW Florida, or if it was at my previous call at St. John Lutheran Church in Spokane, WA. I find that as the years go by there's a lot more that I don't remember. It's gotten to the point that I can't remember what it is that I can't remember. Anyway, there's something interesting that we find near the end of our Divine Service on Sunday mornings, right before the Benediction. It's something called the "Benedicamus". The Latin word benedicamus translates into English as "Let us bless". "Benedicamus Domino" means "Let us bless the Lord". That's exactly what I, the pastor says as we speak the Benedicamus together. I encourage all of us to do something that will be a blessing to our God, that will bring joy into His almighty, eternal and all loving heart. How we do that comes in the congregation's response. We say together, "Thanks be to God". We say that because that's exactly what God wants to hear from us. Giving thanks to Him from a grateful heart is God's desire of us. It makes Him happy! In the verse at the top of the page the Apostle Paul exhorts the believers in the Macedonian city of Thessalonica to give thanks to God in all circumstances, whether things are going well, are about average, and even when times are really tough. Giving thanks is a big part of what we are called to do as Christians. Also, in the Divine Service there is something called "The Eucharist".



That's a term we Lutherans don't use much... too Catholic! But it applies and is totally appropriate. The Eucharist is synonymous with The Lord's Supper. In its Latin origin "eucharistia" translates as "thanksgiving". That may sound like a pretty odd name to give to Holy Communion, but it is indeed very fitting because that's our part in it. Giving thanks is all we do. God does all the rest for us! As we come to the Lord's table Jesus is our host. He offers the invitation, and He provides the meal. He gives us His true body and blood along with the bread and the wine. In that body and blood, we receive the forgiveness of

sin and assurance of our eternal life and salvation freely as a gift of God's grace won for us in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. God provides the meal. We receive the benefit, and we then respond in saying "Thank you". The Sacraments are not something that we do. In Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper it's all God's doing, and He does it all for us. Yes, we're commanded to "Do this in remembrance of Me [Jesus]", but even then, it's by God's power in the Holy Spirit that we're able to even do that. All of these things are gifts of God's grace in Christ Jesus, for which we are obligated and empowered to respond by simply saying "Thank you".