

Leviticus 23:9-14

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 10 "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest, 11 and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, so that you may be accepted. On the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. 12 And on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a male lamb a year old without blemish as a burnt offering to the Lord. 13 And the grain offering with it shall be two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, a food offering to the Lord with a pleasing aroma, and the drink offering with it shall be of wine, a fourth of a hin. 14 And you shall eat neither bread nor grain parched or fresh until this same day, until you have brought the offering of your God: it is a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

Notes

Questions for Reflection & Discussion:

1. It's been argued that "thankfulness is one of the first emotions to evaporate." Have you experienced that personally?
2. What questions do you have about the call to "offer first fruits" in Leviticus 23?
3. What are things we could do today to encourage a deep gratitude to God to "sear in our minds and settle in our souls"?

Family Business

Upcoming:

Sunday 1/12

- 8:45 am – Service / Sanctuary
- 9:30 pm – Children's Choir Practice / Choir Room
- 9:45 am – Sunday Morning Classes
- 11:00 am – Service / Sanctuary

Tuesday 1/14

- 6:30 pm – Men's Bible Study / Room 015

Wednesday 1/15

- 6:00 pm – Adult Pickleball / Gym
- 7:15 pm – Chancel Choir / Choir Room

Thursday 1/16

- 11:00 am – Prayer Meeting / Chapel

Friday 1/17

- 12:00 pm – Women's Table Talk / Room 114
- 6:00 pm – Family Game Night / Gym

Annual Congregational Meeting: On Sunday, January 19th, at noon, we will hold our annual congregational meeting in the Sanctuary. We will receive the annual reports from all the church ministries and hear a State of the Church address from our pastors as we look ahead to 2025! Also, note that this is a Single Service Sunday with service at 11:00 AM.

Family Game Night: Our Children and Family Ministry is hosting a Game Night on January 17th from 6-8 pm in our gym. All are welcome! Enjoy board games, card games, a light dinner, and more with your family and friends. Bring your favorite games and a side dish if your last name ends with A-L or a dessert for last names with M-Z. **RSVP through the events page on the website by January 12th.**

Pastor's Book Club for January: Looking for some reading over the holidays? Get a copy of Russ Ramsey's *Rembrandt is in the Wind: Learning to Love Art through the Eyes of Faith* and mark your calendar for **January 22nd at 6:00 PM**. Pastor Don will be gathering together with anyone who has read this great book in the library for a life-giving, thought-provoking conversation. You don't have to know anything about art to get a lot out of Ramsey's book. Everyone is welcome to come!

Worship Night: Steep in an unhurried time of music and prayer led by our contemporary scholars on Thursday, January 23 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.



January 12, 2025

**FIRST &
CALVARY**
a house of prayer for every generation

The House of Prayer

Prelude | Aaron Huffman

Call to Worship | Tyler Heckman Tracy Brown

Leader: The LORD is my shepherd;
All: I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways
for his Name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

*Opening Hymn

77 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Words: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.
Music: Erneuertem Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665

Confession of Sin

Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unfailing,
self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you.
You constantly call us, but we do not listen.
You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.
We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed.
God of grace, as you come to us in mercy,
we repent in spirit and in truth,
admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn 817

Hear Our Prayer, Oh Lord

Words: Based on Psalm 143:1
Music: George Whelpton

Declaration of Forgiveness

Come now, let us argue it out,
says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.
—Isaiah 1:18, NRSV
Christian, be at peace and know you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

Hymn 805

Glory Be to the Father

Words: Gloria Patri
Music: Henry Greatorex

Stewardship Message | Tom Dancey

Invitation to Offering

Feel free to use the offering plates or contact the church for online or direct deposit giving. Guests, please do not feel obligated.

Offertory | Aaron Huffman, organ

Adoration

Music: Florence Price

*Doxology

Hymn 809

*Offering Prayer

Time for Children | Kiki Eldridge

Jesus Loves Me

Oh How I Love Jesus

Scripture | Leviticus 23:9-14

See Scripture Panel

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon | Rev. Don Everts

Offering Firstfruits

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution & Communion

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom
come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And
lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

379 For the Fruit of All Creation

Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1970

Music: Traditional Welsh melody, c. 1784; harm. attr. Luther O. Emerson, 1906

*Benediction

*Postlude