

Freeing Faith

Sunday Before Thanksgiving November 20, 2016

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26: 2, 10-11

You shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name

So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

First Fruits

As we approach Thanksgiving, we are mindful of the many blessings of our lives. In the scripture reading, Moses provides instructions on how the people of Israel should respond, after reminding them of the many blessings God had provided. He tells them that they are to bring the first fruits of the harvest (not the leftovers!) to worship for the sake of the community. It is notable that as they do so, they will celebrate not only with friends and family, but with people who are very different from them.



Freeing Faith is our stewardship theme this year. We will reflect on our freedom in Christ – as we discover the joy that we receive in “letting go” in faith, instead of “hanging on” to what has been given to share. Over the course of the next three weeks, we will have the opportunity to consider the first fruits that we will share in 2017 for our common mission and ministry at Faith Lutheran Church. On December 11, you are invited to bring your response to worship where they will be tied to a small Christmas tree. In doing so, we will have visual reminder that what we give is in thanksgiving for God’s greatest gift of all in Jesus.

Prayer Suggestion: As you celebrate Thanksgiving this week, give thanks for the blessings you have been given, and the freedom we have to share what we have received with others.