



May 11-12, 2024

Luke 17:11-19



**THRIV'ERA
GRATEFUL**

As image bearers of the Divine, our calling extends to embodying a spirit of gratitude in all aspects of our lives. We thrive together as grateful people who practice gratitude as a spirited discipline, remembering with joy and thanksgiving that all we have is an expression of God's grace.

WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND

My Lighthouse

We Praise You O God (9:00 only)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Message: Paul Gauche

Goodness of God

Let All Things Now Living (9:00 only)

Go as a grateful child of God,
bringing some good to each moment,
something better to each day,
and our best to each other.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Thriv'era Sermon Series

If you would like to access small group study guide resources for this sermon, visit popmn.org/worship/downloads/

Annual Congregation Meeting

During all worship services June 8-9.

JOIN US FOR COMMUNITY

Transition Blog

Visit our Transition Blog for updates related to leadership transitions: popmn.org/category/transition-blog

We're excited to begin the search for a **Pastor of Spiritual Formation**. If you know of someone who may be interested, email callcommitteespiritualformation@popmn.org

JOIN US FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

Vacation Bible School Volunteers | June 10-13

Interested in volunteering? Contact Dawn: dridgway@popmn.org

JOIN US IN GENEROSITY

Your gift supports mission and ministry. Thank you!



Connect With Us

We are here to love God and all people by being the heart, hands and feet of Jesus in the world so that all might know that they are loved. We are an open and affirming church. We value growing a relationship with God and with each other, and showing up for people in need in this community and beyond. **Welcome to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church!**



Connect with Prince of Peace! Scan here to join our mailing list and find ways to get involved.



Scan here to connect with the Prince of Peace **Children's and Family Ministry** team.



Scan here to make a **prayer request** or to have a member of the Spiritual Care Team contact you.

From Paul Gauche's book "Welcome the Seasons | Thriv'era":

I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. Your ways, God, are holy. — Psalm 77:11-13

Remembering the past provides context for hope as we move into the future. Remembering God's faithfulness in the past [looking back] is an integral step in nurturing a deep hope for the future [looking ahead].

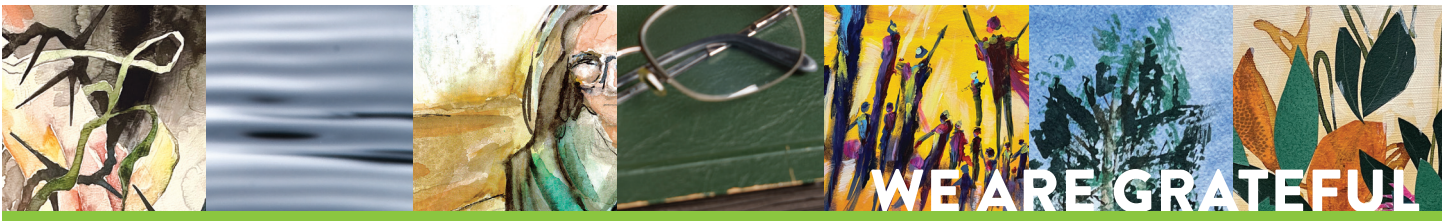
The art of remembering was a powerfully spirited practice for the ancient Hebrew people. The future was out of view, unseen, unlive, unknown. On the other hand, the past was very much in view, recalled, recollected, and remembered. One could "see" with great clarity what had previously taken place, which, in turn, informed every moment going forward.

Today, we think back to the interesting conversations we had yesterday. We bring to mind a memorable dinner party last month. We remember moments in our past that broke us, moments we wish we could forget. We remember both the painful and the life-giving moments, and use what is helpful while letting go of what does not bring us more life.

The blessing of moving ahead by looking back, or backing into the future, can remind us that we are never alone.

We can remember our moments, gather them together, learn from them, and begin to see the shadow of the shape of the One who walks deeply into our lives. We move ahead and into the future by remembering God's faithfulness to us in the past. We move forward by looking back at the One who says, "You can trust that I will never leave you or abandon you in the future because I've never left you or abandoned you in the past."

- How is remembering the presence of God in all things behind us, in the past, is the first step in celebrating our hope for what is ahead of us in the future?
- Think about a challenging or painful moment from your past that significantly shaped your perspective. How does remembering both the difficulty and the learning affect the way you approach the future?
- Consider the concept of "backing into the future," and the idea that remembering God's faithfulness in the past is integral to nurturing hope. Can you recall times from your past when you felt the presence of something greater than yourself? How does that memory influence how you think about what lies ahead?



What was your first waking thought this morning? Maybe it something like "I didn't get enough sleep." Or "Today is going to be too busy." Or "I wish I could take the day off."

Many of us begin each morning in a mindset of scarcity. Not enough rest. Not enough time. Not enough of me to go around to all the tasks and people that need my attention. I'm running out of time, energy, bandwidth. There isn't enough. We're already not enough before we take our first step into the new day.

Do you think anything would change if you intentionally started each day in an abundance mindset? Imagine starting each day with thoughts like this: "Today is full of possibility." Or "I love the way the light is shining through the window." Or "There is nothing as wonderful as the smell of coffee."

Do you think beginning the morning with that sort of simple gratitude can change the trajectory of your day? In what way? Do you think you can train your brain to see abundance before – or instead of – scarcity? How?