

November 21st, 2021 – Reign of Christ Sunday

Introduction to the Day

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you
and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables
and have turned away the stranger.**

**We have sought glory for ourselves and have
treasured that which does not satisfy.**

**Help us to love as you love,
to welcome those you send,
and to treasure mercy and justice.
Turn us from our ways to your ways,
and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new,
forgives your sins for † Jesus' sake
and remembers them no more.
Lift up your heads and your hearts.
Yours is the kingdom of God.
Amen.

Gathering Song "Lead On, O King Eternal"

#805

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lesson – Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

⁹As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne,
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.
¹⁰A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood
attending him.
The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

¹³As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.
¹⁴To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Children's Message

Gospel – John 18:33-37

³³Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Message

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

Pilate's response to what Jesus has to say at the end of this Gospel text, a question that is not included in this selected text is, “What is truth?”

Jesus has told him that He has come into this world to testify to the truth and that those who belong to the truth listen to his voice.

Pilate's question is a fair one. Honestly it is a question I, myself, asked when reading this. What does it mean to belong to testify and belong to the truth?

I googled “truth quotes” to see what the internet would have to offer this conversation. Number 1 on the extensive list of things the internet has to say about truth was, “71 truth quotes” and here are just a few of those.

Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth. Henry David Thoreau

Lies run sprints, but the truth runs marathons. Michael Jackson

To be Jedi is to face the truth, and choose. Yoda

Jokes? There are no jokes. The truth is the funniest joke of all. Muhammad Ali

Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain't goin' away. Elvis Presley

First and last, what is demanded of genius is love of truth. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Stop hanging out with people that tell you what you want to hear. Hang out with people who tell you the truth. Eric Thomas

Let us begin by committing ourselves to the truth to see it like it is, and tell it like it is, to find the truth, to speak the truth, and to live the truth. Richard Nixon

Truth is the property of no individual but is the treasure of all men. Ralph Waldo Emerson

In a time of deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act. George Orwell

For though we love both the truth and our friends, piety requires us to honor the truth first. Aristotle

Devotion requires a willingness, openness and readiness to embrace the truth. It is a process of opening yourself to receive what already is. God's goodness and love already exist. God's love leads us to the truth. Iyanla Vanzant,

Yes, the truth may hurt but lies will become a crutch and will cripple you. Stephen T. Scott, Wings To Fly

A lie is like a snowball, it starts off small and then grows and grows until a point where it gets so big it falls apart and then the truth is discovered. Chris Hughes, Inspirational quotes About Love, Life And Success.

When you stretch the truth, watch out for the snapback. Bill Copeland

The alternative to practicing what Scripture calls speaking the truth in love is continuing to communicate a lie in fear. That's no way to live. Beth Moore, The Promise of Security

What I know for sure is that speaking your truth is the most powerful tool we have. Oprah Winfrey

Standing courageously for an unpopular opinion isn't easy, but the rewards of standing courageously for the truth will last forever." Rick Warren

Jesus, provides powerful instruction and revelation about the living Easter experience happening day by day in the lives of every seeker of truth. Joel S. Goldsmith, The Easter Letters

My humor is always rooted in truth and full of wisdom - the kind that comes from living, watching, learning, and knowing. Steve Harvey, Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man

The fact that a great many people believe something is no guarantee of its truth. W. Somerset Maugham

The truth is anyone can be the difference; all it takes is using whatever you have, to do whatever you can. Darius Graham, Being The Difference

A lie travels round the world while truth is putting her boots on. French Proverb

Toward the end of his life Dr. King displayed increasing urgency as he spoke the truth about what he discerned and resisted those who sought to ghettoize his concern for social justice and peace. Marian Wright Edelman, The Trumpet of Conscience

As new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. Thomas Jefferson

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity. Buddha

The pursuit of truth and beauty is a sphere of activity in which we are permitted to remain children all our lives. Albert Einstein

The truth is effortless. Rashida Costa, 365 Days Smarter

Despite what you might have been told, we're not inherently selfish. The truth is, we're inherently kind. David R. Hamilton PhD, The Five Side-effects of Kindness

If I could persuade every single person in the world to accept all of my beliefs, it would not make those beliefs correct. Nor would it change what is actually true. David Bercot, Common Sense

The truth really is 'the light of the world. Brad Blanton, Radical Honesty

Here is your truth. You have God within you. Live from that place and all will be well. Wayne Dyer

People from all walks of life have had things to say about truth. From pop culture icons to founders of our nation. Presidents. Poets. Deep thinkers. Song writers. Sports heroes. Activists. Religious Scholars. And more. All of these have had something to say about truth.

And, what all of these seemingly have in common is that truth is what it is. It does not waver. It may evolve. But truth is truth. It is unchanging.

So, what do we do with this?

What is our truth?

Jesus says tells us that he has come into the world to testify to the truth and that everyone who belongs to the truth listens to his voice.

As God's chosen people – called, claimed, gathered, and sent out – it is our call to live in that truth.

As it is Reign of Christ or Christ the King Sunday we are to let those truths that we all know to be true, at the foundation of our faith, rule over us. Have reign over us. Take power in our lives.

We are called to confront the untruth of injustice. We are called to confront the untruth of some being told they are less than others. We are called to confront the untruth of feeling unworthy.

“For God so loved the WHOLE world that God gave God's only Son.”

A son who tells us that the greatest commandment is to love God with every fiber of our being and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Those are our truth. That all are worthy of those promises.

People of God let us hear THAT truth. Let us follow THAT voice. Let us make THAT known.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Song of the Day **“The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”** **#531**

Apostle's Creed

Prayers

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for preachers, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers who carry your forgiveness and love to the world. Fill their words and actions with compassion and kindness so that your truth will shine. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the well-being of others, especially ministries in our community: Helping Hands for Our Children of the Chippewa Valley, the Chippewa Valley Street Ministry, Feed my People and other food pantries, and more. Renew them in their work. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for the friends of our congregation who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering pray (*especially Peyton, Kathy Smith, Matt Miller, Bob Hodges, Bob Kries, Jim and Sandy Nelson, Joe Christensen, Bill and Bonnie Kuehn, Steve Bradford, David Gunderson, Cassie Skinner, Keith Franson*). Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body of Christ. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to be our beginning and our ending. We give thanks for those whose lives have given us a glimpse of Jesus' reign of justice and peace. Empower us to join their witness. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Holy God,
the earth is yours and everything in it,
yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures.
Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine,
and strengthen us to be your body for the world
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Words of Institution – We invite you to find bread and wine or juice and partake in this Holy Meal.

(Holding the bread) In the night in which we was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and broke it, gave thanks and gave it for all to eat saying, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

(Holding the cup) Again after supper he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it for all to drink saying, "this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. So often as you do this, remember me."

Once you've taken the elements say, "Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**"

Lord's Prayer

Communion Prayer

Sending Song

"Soon and Very Soon"

#439

Blessing

God, the beginning and the end,
who has written your name in the book of life,
✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace
from this time forth and forevermore.
Amen.

Led on by the saints before us,
go in peace to serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Announcements

As you heard a little bit during worship on Sunday, during the month of November we are going to be expressing our Gratitude and sharing stories of Generosity.

One of the ways that we will do that is with the Gratitude Pumpkin. As you come into worship you will find a pumpkin in the center aisle. You are invited to write whatever it is that you are grateful for on the pumpkin. If getting to worship is a hurdle for you, let us know what you are grateful for and we will put it on the pumpkin for you!

Throughout the rest of the month we will be hearing more stories of GENEROSITY and taking moments to express our GRATITUDE!

We Challenge You!

Look for the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary.

Take a flame - Make a payment!

60 payments of \$323.71

We're burning up the Boiler Loan from the Good Shepherd Endowment Fund.

The more money we put back into that fund, the more money that fund makes!

The more money that fund makes, the more that fund can do for our church and our community.

We already have commitments for the payments for 2022, could you claim one from 2023? If you would like to claim a month, contact the church office and let us know.

Poinsettias for Christmas

If you would like to order a poinsettia to have in the sanctuary during the Christmas season, please fill out the form and return it to church with \$10 by Sunday, Nov. 28.

Advent Family Fun 2021

Join us Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. for Advent Family Fun! There will be gingerbread houses, creating a family ornament, 3rd Annual Christmas carol bingo, and more! We will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner and wrap things up around 7. Please let Anne know if you are coming for dinner! All are invited, bring your kids, grandkids and neighbors! Don't miss the Advent Family Fun 2021!

Operation Christmas Child

The Outreach Team thanks all those who filled a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child. The boxes were delivered to our local drop off site but if you still have a box, you can bring it to Peace Lutheran Church by Friday.

Blue Christmas Worship

St. John's Lutheran Church invites you to Blue Christmas Worship - A service of Comfort and Hope on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m.