

## Christ the King Sunday – November 20, 2022

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who redeems us in Christ Jesus,  
whose steadfast love endures forever.  
**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we have sinned against you  
and our neighbors.  
We have ignored voices  
that call for your justice.  
We have neglected actions  
that witness to your righteousness.  
We have spoken and acted  
in ways that disrupt your beloved community.**

**We truly repent of things we have done  
and left undone.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
Restore our troubled spirits,  
so that we may live in newness,  
follow the way of the Spirit,  
and build up the body of Christ.**

**Amen.**

Rejoice and be glad!

God hears the prayers of all who cry out,  
and restores us to life through the death  
and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, I declare to you the forgiveness of all  
your sins,

in the name of the Father,

and of the † Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn "Blessed Be Your Name"

#### Greeting

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.  
**And also with you.**

#### Prayer of the Day

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### Readings: Jeremiah 23:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

#### Children's Message

## **Gospel: Luke 23:33-43**

<sup>33</sup>When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>[[Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup>and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup>Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup>He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ**

## **Sermon**

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

As we think about Christ the King, or Reign of Christ Sunday, what does it mean to put a crown on the year in the church that has us in the Gospel of Luke? With this Sunday upon us, we find ourselves one week removed from the Season of Advent and the start of a new church year. So, how might we wrap up the year that was in the Gospel of Luke.

Luke’s gospel begins with Mary’s song, the Magnificat.

<sup>46</sup> And Mary<sup>□</sup> said,

‘My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

John the Baptist, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, speaking of Jesus quoting the Prophet Isaiah,

<sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”’

And then Jesus, when rejected at Nazareth, also quoting the Prophet Isaiah,

<sup>18</sup> ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”’

The Jesus of Luke's Gospel continues to remind us that as people of faith it is our call to be for the other. Jesus in Luke's Gospel doesn't mince any words in making us aware that this is a Holy difficult calling, but a worthy one. He sends his disciples out with nothing, telling them that there will be places that welcome them, and when they do to stay as long as possible. But, when you come to a place that doesn't, and they are out there, to shake the dust from your feet in protest against them. He urges his followers to not let those moments collect like dust, for there is work to be done and other places to get to.

Jesus warns his followers that the message he brings will bring division, but Holy division. That the call to be a follower of Christ is far greater than any angst those moments might provide.

And we look to Christ the King Sunday, nearing the arrival of Advent and the beautiful story of the crying baby in the manger, expecting to get a text of Jesus sending his disciples into town to find a cold for his entry into Jerusalem, and the 99 times out of 100 sermon on the humility of this new king...

And instead we are confronted with the crucifixion. We are reminded that the story and the why of Jesus is about so much more than the cute little crying baby in a manger that many would travel miles to visit, but it is about the redemption of the whole human race. That in Christ each one of us is called into relationship with God our creator through our relationships with one another.

In our Gospel text for today we are reminded, called, and urged to realize that the Christ story is a story of redemption. Even when we feel we don't deserve it.

The story finds Jesus on the Cross flanked by criminals and guarded by those who make a mockery of him. We first hear his words, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they are doing."

From the cross, with his dying breath, Christ the King offers forgiveness.

He is then confronted by the other criminals. One who wishes to make fun and deride him for being the Messiah but unable to save himself. The other approaches Jesus with humility. Being a devout Jew he knew that what he had done warranted the death that was to come to him.

"We indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

And, in that moment, he asks for only one thing, that Jesus would remember him in his Kingdom. He asks for nothing more. And in this line we are reminded of the Jesus of Luke's Gospel and the mission he brings to earth, to bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly, to make straight the crooked path and make smooth the rough one, to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, bring good news to the poor, restore sight to the blind, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Remembering all of those things we hear a message for all who feel that the love of Christ, that God's grace and mercy is not for them.

"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

It is the reign of Christ to remember that nothing can separate us from God's love. Not even ourselves. To a criminal who knew full well why he hung on that cross, Jesus promises paradise.

Knowing what we know of ourselves, and with every reason we can think of for being unworthy, it is God's reign to remind us that paradise is promised to us.

May it be a reminder that we are to seek that paradise here and now. Where this is no hungry, no poor, no captive, the mighty are brought down and the lowly lifted up and all who doubt it realize that paradise is promised to us.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

## Song of the Day

## “Build My Life”

### The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Prayers of Intercession

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for your church. Embolden denominations and faith-based organizations in creative and collaborative ministries and increase our work for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth. Protect waterways from pollution and animal habitats from destruction (*local water sources or protected lands may be named*). Guide us in careful stewardship of waters, plant life, and animals. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Instill in every leader’s heart a desire for justice and peace. Support the work of international collaborations that seek the goals of health and joy for all people (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who are undermined or oppressed. Amplify the voices of the unheard and break open stubborn systems of injustice. Bring about your righteousness and fill us all with your redeeming light. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Guide our pastor/s, deacon/s, and council members in discernment, and nurture new leaders with fresh ideas. Give this congregation a spirit of discipleship and service. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have died in the faith (*especially*). Console us who mourn and comfort us with the beautiful promise of life in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Offering

## Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, Maker of all things.

As you have entrusted us with all that you have created, now gather our gifts, nourish us with this sacrament, and send us to those who hunger and thirst, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## Words of Institution

### 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

## Communion

### Prayer

We give you thanks, most gracious God,  
that you have fed us with the bread of heaven  
and given us a foretaste of Paradise.

Enliven us to be your body in the world  
and to serve those who are in need;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Blessing

The God of peace,  
who creates all things and calls them good,  
who makes us alive in Jesus,  
and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Sending Song

**“The Only Name”**

## Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!**

And all of Good Shepherd said,

**AMEN!**

## November Financial Snapshot

Through November 15th

Total Revenue **\$11,705**

Total Expenses **\$13,210**

**-\$1,505** Difference

Rest of November  
Financial Forecast

2 Sunday Offerings

**-\$6,000** expenses



*Immeasurable*  
HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE

**ISAIAH 46:10**

ADVENT AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Lutheran Church of the  
**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
KNOWN - SEEN - LOVED

**Hold on to Your Hat  
IT'S CHRISTMAS!**

A Children's Christmas Musical  
by Cathy Skogen-Soldner

**Kids of Good Shepherd musical – Dec. 11, 9 a.m.**

**French Toast  
Fellowship Brunch**

Following Worship on December 11  
Hegge Hall

GOOD SHEPHERD