



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 2020

Welcome! On this final Sunday of the liturgical year, our Gospel Reading contains Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are the ones who serve Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the First Reading, God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we also await the consummation of all things yet to come. At the close of our gathering, we go forth from here with the task of living-out Christ's reign through our own loving words and deeds.



Prelude

***Eternal Father, Strong to Save* by Robert J. Hughes**

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Litany

Grace to you and peace from Jesus our King,
the One who is, who was, and who is to come.
Grace and peace also to you.

Come, Lord Jesus, Christ our King,
into our hearts and our hands,
our serving and our following,
into our words and all of our actions.
We pray that your Kingdom be revealed in our lives even now.

Come, Christ Jesus, our Lord and King,
into those places where we are broken the most:
wherever there is violence or division,
wherever there is disease or need,
wherever there is grieving, or longing, or even despair.
We pray that your Kingdom be manifested among us even now.

Come, Lord Jesus, Christ our King,
and use us as your own to live-out the Reign you bring.
Come among us, that we, ourselves,
may be shaped by your New Creation.
We pray that your Kingdom come, your will be done, through us even now. Amen.

Choir

Jesus Shall Reign

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O God of power and might,
your Son shows us the way of service,
and in him we inherit the riches of your grace.
Give us the wisdom to know what is right
and the strength to serve the world you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:15-23

[Saint Paul writes:] ¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

[*Jesus said to the disciples:*] ³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.'

⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor James Dew

Anthem

We Will Gather



Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith:

**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

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the Church, the world, and all in need:

Lord of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all ministries through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Restore our capacity to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Provide healing, strength, and peace to all who struggle and who seek your face. We name before you *Bob Cauble, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Frances Franz, Alwin Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Lee Iredale, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Beth Knox, Paul and Gloria Boenisch, Jeff and Lori Sackett, Kenny and Cheri Knippa, Kim Friesenhahn, Chris Gates, Paul Mason, Dean Olson, Ron Olson, Viola Caraway, the Kowalik family*, as well as those whom we name in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you. (Please greet those nearest you with these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is both our duty and our delight, that we should at all times and in all places, give you our thanks and praise, Almighty God, through Jesus the Christ, who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, and who, on this first day of the week, overcame death and the grave, and by his rising has opened to us the way of everlasting life.

For on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and 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 sin. Do this, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Turn your face toward us, O God, and pour out your Spirit upon this table of grace, and upon your people who gather around it. As we receive Christ's body, broken for all, awaken us to your voice, sending us to speak and act on behalf of those who are neglected and oppressed in our time. As we receive Christ's blood, poured out for all, open both our hearts and our hands, to reach out and to lift up all whom this world has forgotten.

And when the time comes that Christ reigns forever, over sin, over death, over all creation, gather us at the feast you have prepared for your people since the beginning of time, that we may sing praises to you forever and ever:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help us to pray:

**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.**

Holy Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. During this time of pandemic, individual servings of the Eucharist are being offered in the pews at the direction of the Pastor.

Communion Prayer

Father in heaven,
in this bread and wine your Son Jesus comes among us
to give us the love and the strength to meet him
in all who hunger and thirst for our love and strength.
Send us now from this table as a people of your Kingdom,
that we may indeed be your hands and your heart
in the midst of our world. **Amen.**

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

Choir

Thine the Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace to serve both God and neighbor.
In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

God Bless Our Land by John Sciveyner

Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive," namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.

This Week at St. John's

Today, November 22 @ 8:30am	Pastor's Class
Today, November 22 @ 10:00am	Worship
Monday, November 23 @ 6:30pm	Property Team
Wednesday, November 25 @ 12:15pm	Word, Silence, and Prayer - Online (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84475086246)
Thursday--Friday, November 26—27	Happy Thanksgiving! Church office closed.

*Please see our online calendar at www.stjohnssa.org for other events.
For prayer requests, please contact the church office
(210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org*

Announcements

The Seats and Feets Drive is now underway through December 20. Join St. John's in providing new (still wrapped) underwear and socks for men, women, and children to those in need. Items may be placed under the Christmas Tree in the hallway outside Memorial Hall.

CAM Christmas Store: Many have already donated to CAM through Amazon.com. Many have brought the toys and dropped them off at church. Thank you to all. We're still collecting.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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