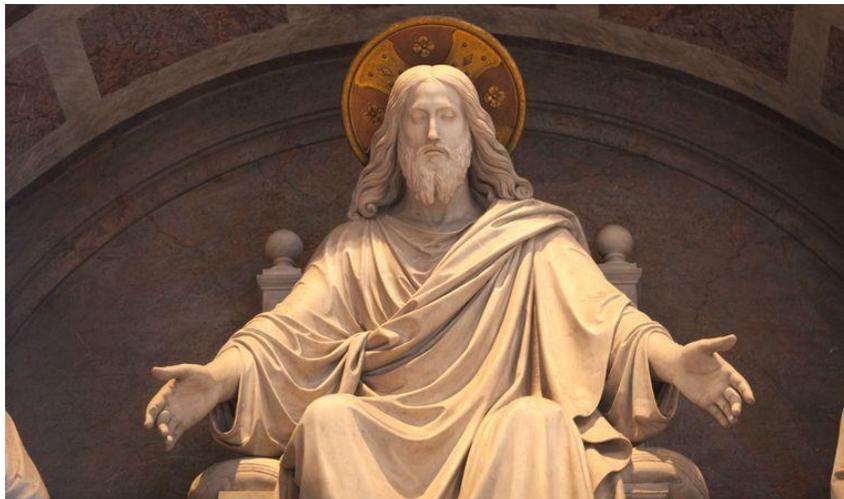


St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship Booklet
Christ the King
November 22nd, 2020 A.D.



PRELUDE *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* setting by Dale Wood

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 100)

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

C: Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong; we are the Lord's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

L: Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise; give thanks and bless God's holy name.

C: Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

OPENING HYMN

ELW 502 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ST COLUMBA

1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

L: Siblings in Christ, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father.

Silence for self-reflection and examination.

L: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: who made heaven and earth.

L: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

L: Gracious God,

C: we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins—those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. Frees us from the captivity of sin, liberate us from the bondage of guilt, work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

L: With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace. **C: Amen.**

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

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a

R: *We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)*

L: Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**C: Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms. R**

L: For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

**C: In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours. R**

L: The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**C: Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

L: ⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**C: Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance R**

L: For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Saint Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-fifth chapter.

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.”

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Silence for reflection.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C: 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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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.

A brief silence.

Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all social ministries of the church 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 (*see prayer list*)
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people.
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.

LORD'S PRAYER

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal Father, I offer up to you my intellect, that I may learn to know you alone.
Sweetest Jesus, I offer up to you my memory, that it may remember you alone.
Holy Spirit, spirit of charity, I offer up to you my will, that you may inkindle and warm it by your divine love. Adorn my soul with your 7 gifts and let me become your pure temple. Fill me with your grace and prepare my heart to receive spiritually my God. Jesus My God, as I am unable to receive you sacramentally, do now receive me into your heart and unite me so perfectly with it that nothing will be able to separate me for a moment from you. Engulf my misery and my nothing in the abyss of your mercy that I change into you. May I henceforth live only for you, by you and in you. Come, therefore, my only satisfactions, come to take possession of this heart, which belongs to you and cannot live one moment without you. **C: Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

ELW 439 *Soon and Very Soon* **VERY SOON**

1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

2 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

3 No more dying there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dying there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dying there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,

Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're are goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

L: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **C: Amen.**

L: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

L: The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

POSTLUDE *“Lord God, Lamb of God” (from Mass for the Parishes)*

François Couperin