

Worship in the Home

A resource provided by First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Rush City, MN

Christ the King

November 22, 2020

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served 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 await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.



Gathering Song

“This Is Amazing Grace”

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory the King above all kings

*(Yeah) (Oh) This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love*

*That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free*

Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory the King of Glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy worthy worthy

CCLI Song # 6333821

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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. (Ezekiel 34:11-16)

Psalms 95:1-7a

- ¹Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
- ²Let us come before God's presence | with
thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.
- ³For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
- ⁴In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours.
- ⁵The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
- ⁶Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.
- ^{7a}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.

Gospel: 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.

[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.' (Matthew 25:31-40)

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The parable judges us: we have not always given food and drink to the hungry and thirsty, welcome to the stranger, nor help to the naked, sick, and imprisoned. But God is also full of mercy. Indeed, this Sunday comes to show us who this God really is: the one whom Jesus calls Father, who passionately cares for the world and gathers the scattered and injured of the people, including us, judging all rulers who misuse the weak; the one shepherd Jesus Christ who, in his cross, identifies with all the wretched poor and remains as close to us as the closest needy person; and the Spirit who gives us wisdom to know this one God and who mercifully makes of us a community — the church — to bear witness in the world. This Sunday of the Last Judgment is also a kind of Trinity Sunday, a revelation of the one God who fills all in all. Such good news comes to us in the word, like food for a hungry flock, turning us again away from fear in a difficult time to care for our needy neighbor, helping us to be more "sheep" than "goats."

“Jesus, Friend of Sinners”

Jesus Friend of sinners
We have strayed so far away
We cut down people in Your name
But the sword was never ours to swing
Jesus Friend of sinners
The truth's become so hard to see
The world is on their way to You
But they're tripping over me
Always looking around but never looking up
I'm so double minded
A plank-eyed saint with dirty hands
And a heart divided

*(Oh) Jesus Friend of sinners
Open our eyes to the world
At the end of our pointing fingers
Let our hearts be led by mercy
Help us reach with open hearts and open doors
Oh Jesus Friend of sinners
Break our hearts for what breaks Yours*

Jesus Friend of sinners
The One whose writing in the sand
Made the righteous turn away
And the stones fall from their hands
Help us to remember we are all the least of these
Let the mem'ry of Your mercy
Bring Your people to their knees
Nobody knows what we're for
Only what we're against when we judge the wounded
What if we put down our signs
Crossed over the lines
And loved like You did

You love ev'ry lost cause
You reach for the outcast
For the leper and the lame
They're the reason that You came
Lord I was that lost cause
And I was the outcast
But You died for sinners just like me
A grateful leper at Your feet

('Cause) You are good
You are good
And Your love endures forever (4X)

And I was the lost cause
And I was the outcast
Hey
You died for sinners just like me
A grateful leper at Your feet

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.

O God, you are beyond our understanding. Forgive us
when our imaginations limit the depth of your being.
Expand our vision of who you have been, who you are,
and who you will be.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sovereign of all, help us to see and hear 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.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the many
blessings you have given us. Surround our community
with thankful hearts, goodwill, and care for each other.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring peace to all places where there is conflict. Grant
opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher
in your reign of unity and reconciliation.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen those who work among the sick. Give them
courage and confidence in all they do. Encourage them
when their efforts seem futile or when death draws
near.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our emergency workers whose mission is
to seek and save, serve and protect, and whose
presence embodies the protection of the Good
Shepherd.

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 with
our young people as they nurture the gifts of the young.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and cared for the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those 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.

**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.**

Blessing

Almighty God,

Father, + Son and Holy Spirit

bless us now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

“Soon and Very Soon”

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!

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!

No more dyin’ there,
we are goin’ to see the King,
no more dyin’ there,
we are goin’ to see the King,
no more dyin’ there,
we are goin’ to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we’re 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,
soon and very soon
we are goin’ to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we’re goin’ to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah.

CCLI Song # 11249

Andraé Crouch

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Devotional Music Links

For your individual or group devotion, you may choose to listen to the following choral recordings made available through Augsburg Fortress:

[“Hymn to Christ the Light:”](#)

<https://youtu.be/NzV5S5dDaFU>

[“God Alone Be Praised: Per Crucem:”](#)

<https://youtu.be/YGB3y-bJ8Qc>

[“Holy God, Holy and Glorious.”](#)

<https://youtu.be/1XcqZTHvBPo>

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday Psalm 7.

Tuesday Esther 8:3-17.

Wednesday John 5:19-40.

Thursday Psalm 80:1-7.

Friday 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18.

Saturday Micah 2:1-13.

First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 64:1-9;

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;

1 Corinthians 1:3-9;

Mark 13:24-37.