



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Christ the King Sunday

November 26, 2023

10:30 Service of the Word

Last week we read about Jesus being arrested while he was praying in a garden with his disciples. Today the story continues as Jesus is questioned by Pilate, the Roman prefect. Pilate was known for being brutal and uncaring. How will he handle Jesus, who has been called the king of the Jews? In the style that we are used to from John, Pilate and Jesus will be talking past each other. We will find Pilate to be sarcastic yet ironically right about himself.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be holy Trinity, one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Holy One,

C: we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation.

Amen.

P: Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us

from the foundation of the world.

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn Rejoice for Christ Is King!

(For music see Hymn 430 in the Red Hymnal)

1. Rejoice, for Christ is king!

Your Lord and king adore;

rejoice, give thanks, and sing,

and triumph evermore:

Refrain: **Lift up your heart,**

lift up your voice;

rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

2. **Our Savior Jesus reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above: *Refrain***

3. **His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus giv'n: *Refrain***

4. **He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit
and bow to his command
and fall beneath his feet: *Refrain***

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

Gathering Dialog (*Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8*)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

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.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

B: ¹¹For thus 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.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 9:8-15 (*read responsively*)

D: You, God, reign for ever;
you established your throne

**C: to rule the world with justice
and judge all peoples rightly.**

D: You defend the oppressed,
fortify them in time of trouble.

**C: Those who know you, trust you;
you never desert the faithful.**

D: Sing to the Lord of Zion,
tell all the people this wonder:

**C: God avenges the poor
and never neglects their cries.**

D: Pity me, Lord.

How my enemies hurt me!

From the gates of death you saved me,

**C: so I might praise your deeds
within the gates of Zion.**

I will rejoice in your victory.

Gospel Acclamation (John 18:37)

**C: Alleluia. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to Jesus'
voice. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading John 18:28-40

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) ³³Then Pilate 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." ³⁸Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release

someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

After the reading:

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Crown Him with Many Crowns
(For music see Hymn 855 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.**
2. **Crown him the virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn;
fruit of the mystic rose,
yet of that rose the stem,
the root whence mercy ever flows,
the babe of Bethlehem.**
3. **Crown him the Lord of love-
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.**
4. **Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave**

**and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.**

- 5. Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.**

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3,5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st.4. Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

Response to the Word

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: **We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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.

D: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

(Jude 20)

D: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

D: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C: Everything old has passed away;

behold, everything has become new!

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Prayers of the Church

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

† THANKSGIVING †

Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.**

**When my heart is lost,
lead me on your way.**

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

C: Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The blessing of God,
Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Blessed Be the God of Israel
(For music see Hymn 250 in the Red Hymnal)

- 1. Blessed be the God of Israel who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us: a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies and all who wish us harm.**
- 2. With promised mercy will God still the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham, from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness to serve God all our days.**
- 3. My child, as prophet of the Lord you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death and lead us into peace.**

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79. Text copyright 1989 Hope Publishing Company. Music: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Arr. copyright Oxford University Press

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Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



CHURCH
FAMILY
THANKSGIVING
DINNER
6 P.M.

Campbell.

"Don't be fooled by the pumpkin pie.
It's just squash casserole with sugar."

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers Sue Kaufmann
Acolyte Alyssa Young
Counters Bill and Katy Stimmel
Coffee Hour

Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 3

Greeters and Ushers Helen Crown
Acolyte Thomas Bullwinkle
Altar Care Linda Thompson
Communion Assistant Linda Flood
Counters Nancy Shuler
Coffee Hour

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