

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 29, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “Search Me and Know Me” -Michael Card

Words for meditation:

Oh my Lord, you search and you know me
You know when I sit, you know when I rise
You know what I think, you know where I’m going
Nothing oh Lord, can hide from your eyes
You close me in, behind and before me
You shield me with your mighty hand
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me
Too much for me to understand

Where can I go to flee from Your spirit?
And from your presence where can I hide?
Behold up in heaven you’re there beside me
In the depths of the darkness You’re by my side
And if I rise on the wings of the morning
Or settle on the far side of the sea
Even there your hand will guide me
For your right hand is holding me

And if I say the darkness will hide me
The night will shine as bright as day
So search me Lord and lovingly lead me
In your everlasting way

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 23:1–6*

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the Lord. Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord. “Behold, the days are coming, declares 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. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 1:1–16*

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God’s will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine. I want you to know, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:1–11*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying, “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on

the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON “Son of David” Matthew 1:1, 6, and 17

- I. Who Is Jesus?
- II. The P_____ King
 - What does “Christ” mean?
 - Matthew cites the Old Testament _____ times, and alludes to it over _____ times.
- III. The C_____ King
 - How many women are in Matthew’s genealogy? Who are they?
 - Guilt is sin done by _____; Shame is sin done to us.
- IV. The R_____ King
 - He “has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.”

Since the dawn of time, about 60 billion people have walked on Planet Earth. Of those 60 billion people, only a handful have made any real, lasting impression. In that handful of people, one stands far above all of the others. His name is Jesus.

Jesus never wrote a book, and yet millions of books have been written about him. Jesus never painted a picture, and yet the world’s greatest art has Jesus as its source for inspiration. Jesus never composed a song, but the greatest compositions were inspired by Him and His life. Jesus never raised an army, and yet millions of his followers have fought and died for him. Jesus never traveled very far from his birthplace, and yet his testimony has gone around the world. Jesus only had a handful of followers, and yet today over 30 percent of the world’s population follows him.

To ignore Jesus is disastrous. To reject Jesus is fatal. But to know Jesus is to love him; to love him is to trust him; to trust Jesus is to be radically, dramatically, and eternally changed by him. The most important question, then, that we can ever ask is this—Who is Jesus?

Who is Jesus? That’s the name of our sermon series for Advent and Christmas. As we finish our time in Matthew, we are going to back to the beginning to prepare us for Christmas. Who is Jesus? Matthew wants us to know! That’s what Matthew’s genealogy is all about—he writes it so we can know Jesus. His genealogy tells us a story. It tells us the salvation history. It proclaims the Gospel.

Today we begin with this truth—Jesus is the Son of David. **“A record of the genealogy**

of Jesus Christ the son of David ... and Jesse the father of King David ... Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ" (Mt 1:1, 6, 17). Jesus is the Son of David and David is a king. That makes Jesus the King. When we confess that Jesus is the King we dare not confuse him with American politicians.

While both are rulers, both are very different! American politicians can make big, crazy promises—don't they? They also seem to say, or do, almost anything, to get elected—won't they? In America we're accustomed to leaders who say what the public wants them to say. No one's campaign slogan is, "Slow, arduous change" or "Realistic compromises." No. We want leaders who promise the moon—and then some!

However, when we look at Jesus, we see a completely different kind of leader—a different kind of king. Jesus is the promised King. "A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ" (Mt 1:1). "Christ" is a title, not a last name. It's the Greek translation of the Hebrew word "Messiah," which means "anointed one."

The Old Testament foretells of a coming Messiah—a King who would be anointed with the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's mission. The Messiah would come from the line of David (as we heard last week in Ezekiel). He'd be born in David's city as the prophet Micah foretells, and will sit on David's throne, as Nathan the prophet promises. Matthew labors to demonstrate that Jesus is this promised king—the Christ, the Messiah, the Son of David!

When Matthew writes his gospel, Israel had been without a legitimate king for hundreds of years. Now, Matthew declares, "a king has finally come to sit on David's throne. It's Jesus!" God had kept His promises in the face of overwhelming adversity and hopelessness. God kept His promises when things looked bleak, and impossible that it would come to pass. However, He always keeps His promises, *always*, we can count on that. Matthew hammers this truth home by citing ten specific Old Testament promises in his Gospel, writing, "**that what was spoken might be fulfilled.**" Matthew cites the Old Testament ten times, and alludes to it over 250 times! Jesus is, indeed, the promised King. God keeps His Word!

Jesus is also the compassionate King. Jesus doesn't come to drive out Israel's enemies. Jesus comes to bring in outcasts. That's evident in Matthew's genealogy. In the ancient world, people traced their ancestry through the father. It comes as no surprise, then, that Matthew's genealogy is predominantly male. But, it isn't exclusively male. Interestingly, Matthew also mentions four women. There's Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba. Surprisingly, Matthew doesn't highlight Jesus's connection to any of Israel's matriarchs—Sarah the wife of Abraham, Rebekah the wife of Isaac, or Rachel the wife of Jacob.

All four of the women in Matthew's genealogy are *outsiders* to Israel. Tamar was a Canaanite. So was Rahab. Ruth was a Moabite. And Bathsheba was a Hittite like her husband—Uriah the Hittite. Each of these women were outsiders to Israel. Moreover, each of these women had a stigma attached to her. Tamar was dishonored by her brother-in-law. Later, she deceived her father-in-law into sleeping with her so she could conceive children. Rahab was a prostitute. Bathsheba committed adultery with King David. Ruth once worshiped Chemosh before taking the LORD as her God.

The Jews expected a Messiah who would come, drive out their Roman oppressors, and crush the nations to establish God's rule. But at his first coming, Jesus doesn't come to judge the nations. He comes to save the nations.

This is a preview of the rest of Matthew's Gospel. Who does Jesus spend his time with? Outcasts. Tax Collectors. Sinners. Prostitutes. The blind. The lame. The deaf. The demon possessed. What is more, Jesus gets close to these people and others (literally and figuratively!). Jesus gets close to the diseased, to people who were excluded from society. And Jesus touches them. He gets close enough to contract their diseases. He gets close to hear the cries of the broken, and smells the stench of death. Jesus brings outcasts home to God, people like Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba, and he removes the shame of His people.

I know that some people carry deep wounds in their lives. And often, those wounds are deepened by the shame others inflict upon us, or by the embarrassment our actions have brought upon us. Jesus welcomes and heals people who carry these wounds, even the unnecessary wounds of shame.

And that finally includes all of us. Jesus not only takes away our guilt, that's sin done by us. Jesus also takes away the shame, that's sin done to us. We don't have to drink our shame away. Work our shame away. Explain our shame away, eat our shame away, cry our shame away, or bury our shame away.

Jesus isn't a King who sits on his throne and says, "Try harder." No, Jesus is a King who

descends from his throne, filled with compassion. Jesus identifies with us in the pit of shame.

At our darkest point—when we feel the ugliest, most despairing—Jesus says, “I love you! I’m here for you. I will get you through this. There will be better days ahead.” What other people said and thought and did to us doesn’t define us. We don’t have to live in shame. We aren’t worthless. We aren’t damaged goods. We are clean. We are whole. We are forgiven. We are loved. We are his. There’s outside help. Jesus is the compassionate King.

Jesus is also the rejected King. To the Jewish elites of his day, Jesus was the wrong kind of king. He lived in the wrong place, associated with the wrong people, preached the wrong message, appointed the wrong leaders, carried out the wrong mission, and offered the wrong redemption.

The whole thing came to a head on Good Friday. Matthew writes about it. **“Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS”** (Mt 27:37). But risen on the third day Jesus says this in Matthew 28:18, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”**

That’s what we would expect of a King—to have all authority; He is a King in every sense of the word. Luther puts it all together when he explains what it means that Jesus is our King who died for us. He says He “has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.”

As our King, we live under Jesus, and serve Him. But, before we ever serve Jesus, first Jesus comes for us. Jesus lives for us, dies for us, and Jesus rises for us. Jesus gives everything for us. That’s a king worth following all the days of our lives.

Matthew 9:9 says, **“As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector’s booth. ‘Follow me,’ he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.”** Who is Jesus? Jesus is our King that we follow all the days of our lives. Just ask Matthew! Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

MUSIC DURING PREPARATION “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” *LSB* 975

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. Throughout the ages You have given us sure promises, all fulfilled in Your Son, so that, encouraged by those who have preceded us in the faith and looking forward in confident hope to seeing Him face-to-face, we find comfort here on earth until it is our joy to join angels and archangels and all the company of heaven to laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav’n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE “Prepare the Royal Highway” *LSB* 343

1 Prepare the royal highway;

The King of kings is near!

Let ev’ry hill and valley

A level road appear!

Then greet the King of Glory

Foretold in sacred story: Refrain

ref Hosanna to the Lord,

For He fulfills God’s Word!

2 God’s people, see Him coming:

Your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before Him!

Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God’s promise will not fail you!

No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

3 Then fling the gates wide open

To greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev’ry nation

Its tribute too should bring.

All lands, bow down before Him!

All nations, now adore Him! Refrain

4 His is no earthly kingdom;

It comes from heav’n above.

His rule is peace and freedom

And justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding

For kindness so abounding: Refrain

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Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *1 Corinthians 1:9 – “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”* The faithfulness of God is our great comfort. He has made promises to us, and He will keep them. He is kind and loving toward us, and He will not break faith with us. This gives us the confidence to step out in faith, to leave fear behind. When it comes to following the Lord’s commandments for our daily lives, we know His will is best for us because our God is faithful.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION DONATIONS: Sanctuary Christmas decoration donation slips are included in today’s bulletin. Please indicate your willingness to help defray decoration costs by using the donation slip. Place in the offering plate, hand to an usher or leave it on Maria’s desk. Donation slips will be available in the narthex through December 25.

ADVENT WORSHIP: This year, we will be doing something a little different for Advent services. We will still offer our Advent services virtually, and we will still be having two services. However, the service part is where things will be different. This year, we will be doing our Advent Services with Bethel Lutheran Church. **Emmaus will host the 11:30 a.m. service, and Bethel will host the 7:00 p.m. service.** Pastors Kooi and Prin will be at both and will alternate preaching and doing the liturgy. It will be the same service at both congregations. We would love to have you join the service that works best for you and your family, whether that is in-person at Emmaus or Bethel, or virtually via YouTube.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING AND WORSHIP: Decorating the sanctuary for Christmas will be done by small groups over the week before December 20th. Realizing the uncertain situation with the pandemic, plans are currently in place to celebrate the festival of Christmas on Christmas Eve with one in-person worship opportunity at 5 p.m. and a virtual service sent out ahead of time.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays at 2:15 p.m. we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE: Your help is needed. The Twin Cities Salvation Army provides toys for thousands of children (ages 0-14) who may not otherwise receive a Christmas gift. Due to COVID-19 and the extreme job losses that many families are facing, it is likely that the need for Christmas assistance will be greater than ever before. We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys at Emmaus until Sunday, December 6th. Most needed are ethnic-specific toys like dolls and books representing African American, Native American, Hispanic, and Asian cultures. In addition, there is great need for general toys for the following children: Unisex, ages 0-2, Boys 6-9, Girls 10-14, and Boys 10-14. This Christmas season, the Twin Cities Salvation Army has partnered with Walmart to make donating toys even easier. Simply buy toys online from Walmart using this Web link: <https://bit.ly/3m90Bhf> and the gifts will be shipped directly to The Salvation Army’s headquarters in Roseville. Purchased toys can also be dropped off at Emmaus. We have already received a Thrivent Action Grant to help start our collection efforts. Please contact Marie G with any questions.

HATS AND MITTENS: Starting December 14th the Social Ministries Committee will be collecting hats and mittens/gloves to be distributed to children and youth in Minnesota through the organization Hats and Mittens. New hats and gloves or mittens can be dropped off at Emmaus from December 14th – January 3rd. We have received a Thrivent Action Grant to help with this project. Thank you!

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Seek My Face” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. We sometimes hear the voice before we see the face that goes with it. Seek God’s face where you hear God’s Word. (Daniel)