

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR—PROPER 29

November 26, 2023 – 9:30 a.m.

AS WE GATHER

Too often we think about God's being up in His heaven, looking down on us. Today's Readings give us the correct perspective. Through Ezekiel, God announces that He is the One who will provide pasture for His people and that He will send them David to be their king. In the Psalm, we reflect that God is our maker. Christ is not only the first to rise from death, Paul explains in the Epistle; He is also the foremost, the One to subject all things under Him. And so His decisions when judging on the Last Day cannot be questioned. First and foremost, then, today is a day to let God's Word give us a correct perspective. This last Sunday of the Church Year is an opportunity to "make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise" (Psalm 95:2).

HYMN "Come, Thou Almighty King" *LSB* 905

1 Come, Thou almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing;
 Help us to praise;
Father all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
 Ancient of Days.

2 Come, Thou incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword;
 Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless,
And give Thy Word success,
And let Thy righteousness
 On us descend.

3 Come, holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
 In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art,
Now rule in ev'ry heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
 Spirit of pow'r.

△ 4 To Thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be
 Hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
 Love and adore.
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INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Ezekiel 34:11; 1 Corinthians 15:27*

Pastor: Let us confess our unworthiness and ask His grace and mercy.

Through Ezekiel in our Old Testament reading, God said that He would “search for My sheep and will seek them out.”

People: We confess that we have wandered away as erring sheep, preferring the pleasures of this world rather than the rich pastures You have provided. Forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: In our Epistle, Paul wrote that “God has put all things in subjection under [Christ’s] feet.”

People: We confess that we have not always been loyal subjects of our Lord, but have made decisions based on our own sinful thoughts and desires. Forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Jesus foretold that He will judge people about how they treated others—the hungry, strangers, and prisoners.

People: We confess that we have not always sought to share Your love and meet the needs of the people around us. Forgive us, O Lord.

Pastor: Rejoice! The One who comes to judge is the same Jesus who is the one who gave His body and shed His blood for you on the cross. He is the first to rise from death, and by His grace we shall follow Him to His eternal kingdom. 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. Thanks be to God.

INTROIT *Psalm 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV*

Pastor: In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

People: O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!

Pastor: Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you.

People: And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.

Pastor: Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

People: Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears! Pastor: For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, our Maker and Shepherd,

People: have mercy on us.

Pastor: Lord, our King and Savior,

People: have mercy on us.

Pastor: Lord, our Judge and Redeemer,

People: grant us Your peace. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “Lord I Lift Your Name On High” –Rick Founds

Lord, I lift Your name on high;

You came from heaven to earth, to show the way.

Lord I love to sing Your praises.

From the earth to the cross my debt to pay;

I'm so glad You're in my life;

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the

I'm so glad You came to save us.

sky;

Lord, I lift Your name on high.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24* (God will shepherd His people Himself.) “For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I 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 ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. ... Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 95:1–7a; antiphon: v. 7a*

Lector: For He is our God,

People: and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

Lector: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

People: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Lector: Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving;

People: let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

Lector: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

People: In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also.

Lector: The sea is His, for He made it,

People: and His hands formed the dry land.

Lector: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

People: For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 15:20–28* (Christ is the first to rise from death; death will be destroyed.) But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put

in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Revelation 22:13*

Pastor: Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,

People: the beginning and the end. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:31–46* (The Christian life involves loving the people around us.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Crown Him with Many Crowns” *LSB 525*

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 wond'ring 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 heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.
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SERMON 1 Corinthians 15:28 "God: Our All in All"

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you enter the sanctuary, or as the offering plates are passed at this time.

PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22

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.

PROPER PREFACE

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, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS “Sing We Holy, Holy, Holy”

Sing we holy, holy, holy,

Joining saints and angels high;

Throned above all earthly powers,

Christ will ev’ry foe defy.

Sing we songs of praise, hosanna!

Hail, Lord Jesus, God’s own Son!

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI “Lamb of God, You Show Us Mercy”

Lamb of God, You show us mercy

And take all our sin away.

Lamb of God, You show us mercy

And take all our sin away.

Grant us, gracious, holy Lamb, peace,

Your own peace till time shall cease.

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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.

Communion is offered in two ways: the individual cup and the common cup. If you would like the individual cup, please partake as the assistant minister passes by after Pastor gives the bread. If you would like the common cup, let the assistant minister pass by, open your hands palm up, and Pastor will return to give you the common cup.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Shout to the Lord” –Words and music by Darlene Zschech

Verse: My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like You;

All of my days, I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;

Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.

Chorus: Shout to the Lord all the earth; Let us sing

Power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands;

Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

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“What Feast of Love” WOV 701

(We do not have permission to reprint this song. Please use the song book if possible.)

BLESSING

Pastor: May our Lord's body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

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.

HYMN "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" *WOV 765*

Chorus: Jesu Jesu

Fill us with Your love

Show us how to serve

The neighbors we have from You

1. Kneels at the feet of His friends

Silently washes their feet

Master who pours out himself for them. *Chorus*

2. Neighbors are wealthy and poor

Varied in color and race

Neighbors are nearby and far away *Chorus*

3. These are the ones we will serve

These are the ones we will love

All these are neighbors to us and you *Chorus*

4. Kneel at the feet of our friends

Silently washing their feet

This is the way we will live with you *Chorus*

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:30 a.m.

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: Matthew 25:44 – “Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’” With this parable Jesus once again emphasizes that our good works come from who we are, not the other way around. Sheep do sheep works, and goats do goat works. So first things first: if we want to live more faithfully, let us come to Jesus, receive His gifts and ask Him to increase our faith!

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 it 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: The Fellowship Department is looking for one volunteer to plan, coordinate, and bring food for a simple lunch (example: soup and sandwich) following the December 13, 2023 midweek Advent service. We also need volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up after all three Wednesday midweek Advent services on December 6, 13, and 20. All services are at Emmaus and begin at 11:30 a.m. so lunches will be served at approximately 12:30 p.m. Call Jean M. or see her after service. Thanks!

ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES will be held on Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20, at Emmaus at 11:30 a.m.

TIME FOR LUNCH! Please join us for lunch down in the Social Hall after the Advent services on Dec. 6, 13, and 20. It will be a great time of food and fellowship as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus’ birth. A basket will be set out to collect a free-will offering to cover the cost of food. See you there!

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Before They Call” Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. SOS and Mayday are distress signals that cry out for rescue. So is “Lord, have mercy!” (Isaiah 64:4)

OFFICE NEWS: The Emmaus office will be closed on Tuesday, November 28.