



## WORSHIP NOVEMBER 29, 2020 FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

*As the church year comes to its final Sunday, our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. When the Dominion of God comes those judged faithful aren't the ones who kept the rules or scored the most points. Not the richest or most successful or respectable or got the most 'Likes'. It's those whose faith showed Christ in loving what God loved: people who're hungry, or in need, those who're sick, or estranged from community. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, celebrating in trust and hope. Christ will come – and as we await His reign, do we see Christ the King in the need around us? Are we awake to making Him known, and serving in his name?*

**GATHERING:** Announcements and time for prayer and preparation.

### **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

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

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

**and you lifted the burden of my sin.**

Let the faithful pray.

**O Lord, preserve me from sin.**

Let us pray: Faithful God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,**

**and turn us again to life in you**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,

and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit.

Live in freedom and peace to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

## HYMN

### GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: - *Silence*- Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



### THE READINGS

The first reading is from Revelation, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter. (Revelation 21:22-27

<sup>22</sup>I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the city's temple. <sup>23</sup>The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God is its light, and the Lamb is the city's lamp. <sup>24</sup>By its light the people of the world will walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>The city's gates will never be shut on any day, because there is no night there. <sup>26</sup>The glory and the honor of the nations will be brought into it. <sup>27</sup>Nothing unclean and no one who does shameful things or tells lies will ever go into it. Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter the city. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

#### *Silence for Reflection*

Psalm 95 is read responsively by verse.

The congregation's response is in **bold** type.

Come, let us sing | to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, | are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are | also yours. R**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**

<sup>7a</sup>For the LORD | is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. **Amen.**

*Silence for Reflection*

The second reading is from Ephesians, the fifteenth chapter. (Ephesians 1:15-23)

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I 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, <sup>18</sup>so 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, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God 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, <sup>21</sup>far 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. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. The Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Alleluia! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God,  
**Blessed is the coming reign of our Savior King. Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Gospel, Matthew 25:31-46 is read.*

[Jesus taught:]<sup>31</sup>“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. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then 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; <sup>35</sup>for 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, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then 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? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited

you?’<sup>40</sup> And 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.’<sup>41</sup> Then 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; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I 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.’<sup>44</sup> Then 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?’<sup>45</sup> Then 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.’<sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

#### **TEACHING THE WORD/SERMON**

#### **HYMN**

#### **CONFESSION OF FAITH & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

In confidence and trust, let us confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

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.

*Silence for reflection*

Shepherd of Israel, guide those who tend your flock. Help us know the blessing of serving you as our King. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator and King, be our strong foundation. Guide us to lean on you and live from you, caring for those in need as if we are caring for You. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of time and eternity, we thank you for all the blessings that are ours, all a gift of your love. As we move into a new church year and this holy time, help us center our lives and what we value from your cross. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, our refuge, our help in trouble, bring healing and comfort to those who are sick or struggling in body mind and spirit. Hear our prayers for those on our hearts today as we pray for:

all who need medical treatment from any and every cause,  
and those unable to access or receive care...

all working to meet the needs of work and home...

those struggling and anxious for health in body, mind and finances....

Those working in healing professions, providing hands on care, support or research...

*Additional petitions may be offered*

Hear our needs, and the needs known only to You. Be our strength to meet the days ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We lift to you, Eternal God, the memory of our loved ones who now rest in you. Bring to mind all who have walked in faith as an example, and bring us to rejoice with them in the everlasting peace of our King of Kings. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Guide and rule and re-form your church forever, Lord Jesus, so that we walk steadily in times peaceful and quiet, and boldly in challenging times, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you!**

*However you are joining in worship at this moment, pause to share Peace with those around you in body or spirit, and offer thanks for God's gifts that sustain and bless us. Offerings can be made online by going to the website [christpipersville.org](http://christpipersville.org), or using the QR code with your smartphone, or mailed. Thank you for making sure we can continue to bless one another and our community.*



*Then continue:*

Let us pray. *Silence* God of mercy and grace,  
**the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things from Your Word, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

*A Brief Silence*

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,  
for by your Word you made all things:  
you spoke light into darkness,  
called forth beauty from chaos,  
and brought life into being.  
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel  
to tell of your wonderful gifts:  
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,  
a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.  
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,  
you speak to us and call us to witness:  
forgiveness through the cross,  
life to those entombed by death,  
the way of your self-giving love.  
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

Lord, now let your servant go in peace  
according to Your word.  
**For mine eyes have seen Your salvation;  
Which you have prepared before the face of all people;**

A light to reveal You to the nations,  
And the glory of Your people Israel.  
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

Let us pray in the words Jesus taught us:  
**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 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. **Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HYMN

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

*However you have joined in worship with the family of Christ Lutheran, may you be blessed! We hope you will take time to read the announcements, and keep those on the Prayer List in your prayers. Thank you for your faithful support as we move forward serving one another and our community.*

## POSTLUDE

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