



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Bethel Lutheran Church

November 22, 2020

The Lord Jesus was not wealthy or famous. He did not promise His followers that they would possess riches, power, or prestige. He was named a king only in His death. He reigned from the cross, leaving His disciples the treasure of His body and blood.

Today we gather at the table of Christ, our merciful and loving ruler. We wear the crown of baptism and trace his royal sign—the holy cross—over our brows and bodies. We leave here strengthened to serve those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, and imprisoned. While we celebrate Christ's victory over death, we await the consummation of all things yet to come and look for the day when all earth's people will see Him coming with the scepter of peace and the crown of justice.

✠ GATHERING ✠

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

P. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God, the whole company of heaven, and our sisters and brothers.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P. Most merciful God,

C. You know our failings better than we do; we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. Our days and years pass by; the things we trust fade like grass. Be gracious to us, O God. Guide us again to the water of life, and renew in us the grace of Holy Baptism; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

P. You are all children of the light and of the day; you are God's children now. In the mercy of God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. With all the faithful in heaven and on earth, rejoice and be glad!

C. Amen.

GREETING

P. Beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. 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 Lord Jesus Christ, 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

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95:1-7a

Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to Him with psalms.

³For the LORD is a great God,
and a great king above all gods.

⁴In His hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are His also.

⁵The sea is His, for He made it,
and His hands have molded the dry land.

⁶Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,
and kneel before the LORD our maker.

⁷For He is our God,
and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His 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.

I 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.

The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. 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.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “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.' ⁴¹Then 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; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, ⁴³I 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.' ⁴⁴Then 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?' ⁴⁵Then 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.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

- P. The Gospel of the Lord.
- C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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 INTERCESSION

Gathered with the saints by the river of life and surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Great God, we praise You for sustaining the church through another year of grace. Continue to shepherd Your people with Your tender care. Sustain the social ministries of the body of Christ, and increase ecumenical sharing of opportunities for ministry. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Be a source of strength and refuge for all weathering severe storms. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages, that Your reign may be honored throughout the world. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us. Bless the work of the United Nations and of agencies that promote the wellbeing of all peoples. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Bring a peaceful conclusion to the American national elections. Bless all the newly elected officials with a love of concord and a desire for justice. Turn us away from historic prejudices, and show us Your image in each of our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Visit American homes on Thanksgiving Day. When we are separated from loved ones, embrace us with Your care. Keep gatherings safe. Even in our reduced celebrations, give us voices to offer thanks to You for Your perpetual blessings. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

We beg You to end the earth's pandemic. Bring healing to the millions who are suffering from the coronavirus – any who are sick, dying, despairing, isolated, unemployed, and all exhausted medical workers. Guide researchers in developing a vaccine. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Show Your loving power to all who are in need. Equip us to feed the hungry, to provide clean water for the thirsty, to welcome the stranger, to clothe the naked, to care for the sick, to visit the prisoners. We pray especially for Merv, Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Lynette, Bill and Karen Pohlen, Bill Ningen, Gail, Tom and Carol . Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

We praise You for all the saints who have died in the faith who now rest in You. Keep us as one in the communion of saints and at the end of all things, bring us together with all Your children into Your kingdom of joy. Lord, in Your mercy,
C. **hear our prayer.**

Rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Jesus Christ our Lord.
C. **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website (www.bethelofporter.com).

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Creator God,
C. **the earth and all that is in it belong to You. Inspire us to use what You have made to give justice to the oppressed, food to the hungry, and freedom to the captives. May our offerings, given in Your name, lift up those who are bowed down; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

+ MEAL +

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.
C. **And also with you.**
P. Lift up your hearts.
C. **We lift them to the Lord.**
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Holy God ... an end to injustice and harm.
C. **Amen**
P. In the night ... redemption of our suffering world.
C. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**
P. Send Your Spirit ... both now and forever.
C. **Amen**

THE 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.

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P. The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
C. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Shepherd of Israel, You have gathered us and fed us richly with the bread of life and cup of blessing. Open our eyes to all who hunger and thirst for food and for justice, that in them we may care for Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C. Amen.

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

P. May Almighty God, who makes all things new in Jesus Christ, uphold you by the Spirit in times of trial and bring you at last to the heavenly Jerusalem. Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
C. Amen.



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
 C. Thanks be to God.

Those who Serve:

Ministers: All the People of God
 Organist: Lou Knutson
 Camera: Josh Sumption

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter
 Reader: Martha Melrose
 Projection:

How to reach us:

Church Office: 507-296-4658
Pastor's Cell: 507-828-1000 (call or text)
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Pastor's House: 507-296-4558
Pastor's email: pastormunter@gmail.com
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering: Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>

November 8, 2020

General: 1,941.13 (\$749.50 received through eGiving)
Includes: \$791.63 from Hemnes Lutheran Church.
Savings: \$20.00 for organ.

November 15, 2020

General: \$3,584.45 (\$644.45 received through eGiving)
Includes: \$200.00 for ThankGiving Tree. \$100.00 Fuel Offering.
Savings: \$20.00 for organ.



Merv Anderson, Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson
Shirlee Gabbert, Lynette Christie, Bill and Karen Pohlen
Bill Ningen, Gail Sumption, Tom Gawerecki, Carol Moon



Our sympathy to the family of Mavis Anderson who died Thursday.
There will be visitation for Mavis at the Houseman/Birk funeral home
on Tuesday, November 24th, 5-7 pm.

Acknowledgements

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“Crown Him with Many Crowns” Text and Tune in the public domain.

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Prayers of Intercession: Sundays and Seasons, lightly edited by Pastor Munter.