

## Final Sunday after Pentecost ✠ November 22, 2020

***WELCOME!** On this final Sunday of the church year our Gospel reading is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather today to celebrate the reign of Christ the King and his victory over death. We go forth from this holy house, commissioned to make known his love and salvation.*



### THE PASTORAL GREETING

#### THE OPENING HYMN – “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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### THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C:** **Who made heaven and earth.**

*Psalm 124:8*

**P:** I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

**C:** **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Psalm 32:5*

**P:** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C:** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P:** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray. Lord God, 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 people as Jesus did; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C:** Amen.

### THE HYMN OF PRAISE – “The Church’s One Foundation” (V.ss. 1 & 5) **LSB 644**

1 The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation By water and the Word.  
From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

5 Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.  
O blessèd heav’nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace  
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

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## ✠ THE WORD ✠

### THE FIRST READING – Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 NIV

*Since 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— “my servant David”, who is Jesus Christ—he will feed and care for the people properly.*

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. [...]

“Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat

sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **THE EPISTLE READING – Ephesians 1:15-23, NIV**

*In this reading, 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.*

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **THE HYMN – “Seek Ye First”**

(Vs. 3)

**LSB 712**

3 Man does not live by bread alone  
But by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu-, alleluia!

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### **THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Matthew 25:31-46 NIV**

[Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing

clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **THE HYMN – “Lift High the Cross”**

**LSB 837**

Refrain            Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
                         Till all the world adore His sacred name.

- 1    Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
      Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2    Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
      The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. *Refrain*
- 3    All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
      Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*
- 4    O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
      As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*
- 5    Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell  
      Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*
- 6    So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
      Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

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### **THE MESSAGE**

#### **✠ THE RESPONSE ✠**

### **THE HYMN – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

**LSB 805**

- 1    Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
      Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
      Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:  
      Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
      Amen.

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### **THE 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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave 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 BLESSING

P: May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

**C: Amen.**

## THE HYMN – “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB 338

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev’ry nation,  
Joy of ev’ry longing heart.
  
- 2 Born Thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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**✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠**