

Sunday, November 26, 2017  
Christ the King Sunday

## INTRODUCTION

*On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel 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 this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.*

## PRELUDE

***"O Worship the King"***

Lani Smith

## \*GATHERING SONG

***"Christ Is the King!"***

ELW 662

**Christ is the king! O friends, rejoice;  
brothers and sisters, with one voice  
let the world know he is your choice.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Oh, magnify the Lord, and raise  
anthems of joy and holy praise  
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**O Christian women, Christian men,  
all the world over, seek again  
the Way disciples followed then.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let Love's all reconciling might  
your scattered companies unite  
in service to the God of light.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**So shall the church at last be one;  
so shall God's will on earth be done,  
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## \*GREETING

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

**☞** **And also with you.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** *O God of power and might,*

**G** **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 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!**

**ANTHEM**

**“Coronation”**

Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir

Sylvester Heeler, French Horn

## FIRST READING

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

*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-messiah, “my servant David,” who will feed and care for the people.*

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As 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. <sup>13</sup>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 watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I 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. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>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, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

## **Reflection**

*I must admit that most of what I know about shepherds and sheep comes from the Bible. What I know from the stories in the Bible is that sheep without a shepherd get lost easily, they get tangled in brambles, and they don’t have the good sense to come home when they are hungry, as cows do. So, given my admittedly limited knowledge, what does it say to us that God is our shepherd? What does God as shepherd do for the people (sheep) of God? (verses 11-16) Does God treat all the sheep the same? (verse 16) What does it mean to you that God promises to “feed [the sheep] with justice”? (read verses 17-19 for further comments on this) This text is set in Babylon, where the people are in exile. What does it mean that God promises to restore David the shepherd as the shepherd of Israel? (I think he is speaking of the descendants of David—literally and figuratively.) Who is the true shepherd and King of Israel? (verses 23-24)*

*According to the genealogies in Matthew and Luke, Jesus is a descendant of David. Who is our true king? What does that mean for what we believe and how we live?*

### **PSALM 95:1-7A**

<sup>1</sup>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.**

<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.

### **Reflection**

*This psalm is a celebration of God's rule. How are the people called to celebrate? (verses 1-2) How do they understand the reign of God? (verses 3-5) Is God king only of Israel? How do the people fit into this reign of God? (verses 6-7a) Here again the metaphor of sheep and shepherd is used. (verse 7) What does that mean for what you believe and how you live?*

### **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 both of the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

<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.

### **Reflection**

*What specifically does the author give thanks for in the congregation at Ephesus? (verses 15-16) What does he pray for them? (verses 17-19) This is a good prayer for us to pray for one another as those who are part of the community of faith here. Has that prayer been answered among us? Think of how the spirit of wisdom and revelation, the enlightenment of faith, and*

*the hope we are called to by God is present in our community of faith? Who is Christ in this description? (verses 20-23) God has given Christ the power to destroy that which would destroy our creation. How does that declaration influence what we believe and how we live?*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***“Alleluia! Give the Glory”***

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Alleluia!**

**Give the glory and the honor  
to the Lord!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Alleluia!**

**Give the glory and the honor  
to the Lord!**

**\*GOSPEL**

**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.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <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.”

**Reflection**

*Who is judged in this parable? (verses 31-32) Who does the judging? What is the blessing given? (verses 34-35) What have those who are blessed done to receive such a blessing? (verses 35-36) It is important to remember that in Matthew’s gospel those who are believers are called “the little ones.” (see, for example, Matthew 18:6) So those who are being judged are both Jesus’ followers and those who do not believe in Jesus. One thing to notice is that they*

*are not judged on whether they believe in Jesus. They are judged by how they treat those who suffer. What does the Lord declare they have done when they have cared for those who suffer? Why did they do it—because they expected a reward? (verses 37-39) If they have cared for Jesus in caring for his followers who are suffering, where is Jesus in this world? Who lives under the reign of Christ? Is anyone exempt from this judgment? Have you ever experienced the love of God through someone who is not a Christian? What is God's intention for how we treat others? Who is our true king? What does that mean for what we believe and how we live?*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

**SERMON**

***"All Glory Be To Christ"***

Rev. Roger Lenander

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***"Sound the Trumpet"***

**Sound the trumpet strike the drum**

**See the King of glory come**

**Join the praises rising from**

**The people of the Lord**

**Let your voices now be heard**

**Unrestrained and unreserved**

**Prepare the way for His return**

**You people of the Lord**

**Sing Jesus is Lord**

**Jesus is Lord**

**Bow down to His authority**

**For He has slain the enemy**

**Of heav'n and hell He holds the key**

**Jesus is Lord**

**Jesus is Lord**

**\*HOLY BAPTISM**

***"See This Wonder in the Making"***

pg. 227

**See this wonder in the making:**

**God Himself this child is taking**

**As a lamb safe in his keeping,**

**His to be, awake or sleeping.**

**Miracle each time it happens.**

**As the door to heaven opens**

**And the Father beams: "Beloved,**

**Heir of gifts a king would covet!"**

**Far more tender than a mother**

Far more caring than a father.  
God, into your arms we place her,  
With your love and peace embrace her.

Here we bring a child of nature.  
Home we take a newborn creature,  
Now God's precious son or daughter,  
Born again by Word and Water.

**P** *Do you believe in God the Father?*

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

**P** *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?*

**C** **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**P** *Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?*

**C** **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.**

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**P** *Let us welcome the newly baptized.*

**C** **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving  
thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the  
world.**

**\*PRAYER SONG**

***"Open Our Eyes, Lord"***

Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch Him,  
and say that we love Him.  
Open our ears, Lord,

**and help us to listen;  
open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

*A brief silence.*

Almighty God, your merciful rule encompasses all the world. As we gather for worship in safety, we pray for places where the church is persecuted. Watch over your people as they witness to your good news. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Give bountiful pastures, safety, and health to herds, livestock, and all animals. May our care for all of your creation reflect your shepherding love for all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for international organizations that shine your light in places of strife. Lead relief and aid workers, leaders and volunteers to seek the lost and provide safety. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, abused, or ill *especially Emily, Twila, Mary Anna, Alivia, Kay, Lin, and Linda* and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (*pause for 10 seconds*). Give wisdom to counselors, doctors, nurses, and all in professions that provide healing. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Shepherd your churches to welcome the stranger and immigrant in our midst. Call all your people to welcome, clothe, feed, and visit those in need just as you have provided for the lost and despairing throughout the ages. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all the men and women of our armed forces, at home and abroad. We especially lift up to you, Jason Shields. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Give us the hope to which you call us, our glorious inheritance with all your saints. Enrich our lives with the faith and vision of those saints who have died. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen!**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

**C** **And also with you!**

**OFFERTORY**

***“Give Thanks”***

**Give thanks with a grateful heart**

**Give thanks to the Holy One**

**Give thanks because He's given**

**Jesus Christ His Son**

**And now let the weak say I am strong**

**Let the poor say I am rich**

**Because of what the Lord has done for us**

**And now let the weak say I am strong**

**Let the poor say I am rich**

**Because of what the Lord has done for us**

**Ending**

**Give thanks**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

***“Come, Share the Lord”*** vs 1 refrain only

**We gather here**

**in Jesus' name,**

**his love is burning**

**in our hearts like living flame;**

**for through the loving Son**

**the Father makes us one;**

**Come, take the bread,**

**come, drink the wine,**

**come, share the Lord.**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**P** *Creator God,*

**C** **you made everything, and you provide for every need. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**\*DIALOGUE**

**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 our thanks and praise.**

#### **\*PREFACE**

- P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

#### **\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, Holy, Holy  
Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes  
In the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

#### **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

- P** *In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*
- Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

#### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

- P** *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*
- C** **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!

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** *Hunger no more. Thirst no more. Come to the banquet of life.*

**\*BLESSING**

**P** *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**G** Amen!

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** *Sovereign God,*

**G** **in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come. Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints, may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**P** *The love of God surround you;  
the grace of ✠ Christ release you;  
and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength,  
now and forevermore.*

**G** Amen!

**\*SENDING SONG**

***"Jesus Shall Reign"***

**ELW 434**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown his head;

his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
peculiar honors to our king;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.