

Sunday, November 25, 2017
Christ the King Sunday

PRELUDE

“Lo! He Come with Clouds Descending”

Karl Osterland

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who calls us into an everlasting hope,
who guides us to springs of the water of life,
who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.*

C **Amen!**

P *One with the communion of saints in all times and places, let us confess our sin against
God and one another.*

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P *O God, our merciful redeemer,*

C **we confess the ways we live only for ourselves.**

We fail to see you in our neighbor’s face.

We turn our ears from voices that cry out.

We pass by the hungry and the oppressed.

**In your great mercy, forgive our sin
and strengthen us for service to all in need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!**

P *In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for you,
and for † his sake,
God forgives you all your sin.
Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad,
beloved people of God.*

C **Amen!**

***GATHERING SONG**

“Jesus Shall Reign”

ELW 434

vv. 1, 3, 5

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.

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.

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

***GREETING**

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

G **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P *Almighty and ever-living God,*

G **you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Canticle of the Turning”

Rory Cooney

Claire Schiermeyer

FIRST READING

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel’s message is: It shall end. The Ancient One who is judge will call all nations to account and will give dominion to “one like a human being,” the Messiah.

⁹As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne,
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

¹³As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.

¹⁴To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Reflection

The readings for this week invite us to reflect on themes of Power and Truth.

Oh, don't we know about Power. In the USA we've just spent billions of dollars to obtain or keep Power. This month we have lived through elections and all kinds of bending of Truth. Some are happy, some are not; some have sold their souls. Now the ever-present ads have shifted from politics to economics as "Black Friday" looms. Both Power and Wealth beckon, entice, unsettle us--like powerful, present, in-our-face gods.

Daniel speaks to a people without power or wealth. He pulls back the curtain on those things which are only limited, dying facades and invites us to bow and breathe beyond them. For Christians it becomes a wild glimpse of the Trinity, with a smoky taste. There is more, and we are rooted in the more. You are rooted in the more. This One is the Truth. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, wrap me into your warm dominion. Amen.

*Ronald Jensen, '77 alumni of Luther Seminary
Retired, Austin, Minn.*

Psalm 93

¹The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and | armed with strength.
The LORD has made the world so sure that it can- | not be moved.

²**Ever since the world began, your throne has | been established;
you are from | everlasting.**

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted | up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their | pounding waves.

⁴**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers | of the sea,
mightier is the LORD who | dwells on high.**

⁵Your testimonies are | very sure,
and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and for- | evermore.

Reflection

This psalm is a hymn of praise and is part of a collection of psalms known as "enthronement psalms" (Psalms 47; 93; 95-99). This psalm was no doubt sung on special Sabbath festivals both as praise to the Lord and as a reminder to the Hebrews that their God was sovereign of all creation.

As the psalmist reminds us, it is in the beauty of creation that we see God's majesty. I am blessed to live near the Rocky Mountains and I am able to spend a great deal of time surrounded by the beauty of God's creation. But no matter where you live God's majesty surrounds you. And our Lord and King reigns eternal.

Majestic King, we see you in roaring waves, majestic mountains, and a quiet lake. Help us to know and love not only the creation, but also the creator of all that is and was and is to come. Amen.

Tracy Hinkel

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SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4b-8

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

^{4b}Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Reflection

Look! Up in the sky! Is it a bird? A plane? Could it be "Superman"? No, it's a Lamb who appears to have been slain. Yes, now I see: it's Jesus Christ, the faithful martyr, the firstborn of the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth.

I cannot prove it, but I'm pretty sure "coming with the clouds" is a metaphor. Christ will return enrobed in the mysterious splendor and awesome majesty of his Father -- the same God who spoke to Moses in clouds and thunder on Mount Sinai.

Will we, like the Israelites of old, cower in fear when he comes again? Will we be filled with

remorse and regret? Perhaps. But John assures us that Christ comes with a greeting of grace and peace. His wounds are a sign of his love for us. He offers to set us free from our sins. He invites us to serve in his everlasting kingdom. Can it get any better?

O Lord, how shall we meet thee? How welcome thee aright? Your appearance surprises us, confuses us, startles us. Even through the darkest clouds, help us to sense your grace and peace. Amen.

Grant Aaseng

Shalom Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Minn.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“With a Voice of Singing”

**With a voice of singing
declare ye this, and let it be heard,
alleluia.**

***GOSPEL**

John 18:33-37

In John’s gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

³³Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Reflection

You can hardly blame Pilate for doubting that Jesus was a king. He wasn't dressed in royal robes. The Jews were demanding his death. He certainly didn't look the part. But Christ's kingdom is not from this world. He set aside his crown and left the glories of heaven to come to the earth and live among us. He came to save us from being ruled by sin and evil and to give us new life. He came to establish his kingdom here on earth so that we might abandon our lust for power, our desire to use people and to love money, and our self-centered lifestyles. Those who are a part of Christ's kingdom recognize that we are called to be servants. We are called to love people and use money for the good of others. We are called to listen to Jesus' voice and to follow his example.

O Christ, our King, help us to live as those who are a part of your kingdom. You willingly died for us. Help us to live for others. Open our ears that we might hear and heed your words. Strengthen our faith so that we might serve others, even as you came to serve and save the world. Amen.

Paul L. Larsen
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Rejoice the Lord is King"
Men's Chorus

Joel Raney

SERMON

"Amen!"

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

"Majesty"

Majesty worship His majesty
Unto Jesus be all glory
Honor and praise
Majesty kingdom authority
Flow from His throne
Unto His own His anthem raise

So exalt lift up on high
The name of Jesus
Magnify come glorify
Christ Jesus the King
Majesty worship His majesty
Jesus who died now glorified
King of all kings

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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

***PRAYER SONG**

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in His wonderful face;
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, you love us and free us through the death and resurrection of your Son. Lead your church through the gospel. Bless pastors, deacons, musicians, teachers, and all who speak your truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You reveal your goodness through the majesty of what you have created. Bring favorable weather to places affected by storms, protect plants and animals from devastation, and guide us in our use of all natural resources. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You desire justice in the world. Grant to courts wise and discerning judges, attorneys, and public defenders, and guide the rulers of nations to bring about peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are our beginning and end. Soothe the afflicted, comfort the distressed, console the bereaved, and heal the sick especially *Elaine, Jim, Lisa and her baby Lara, Dorothy*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Give all who provide care a measure of your compassion and peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You call us to serve our neighbors. Nourish us with word and sacrament so that we serve as your hands and feet in the world. Protect those who are traveling, and bless those who are unable to attend worship today. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your dominion is forever and ever. We give thanks for the faithful departed who live with the saints of all ages in your infinite love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, that we commend to you this day, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

C **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

“He Is Exalted”

He is exalted

The King is exalted on high

I will praise Him

He is exalted forever exalted

And I will praise His name

He is the Lord

Forever His truth shall reign

Heaven and earth

Rejoice in His holy name

He is exalted

The King is exalted on high

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *the second time*

***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,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,*

*and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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 by the light in our hearts, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

C **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen!**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *Hunger no more. Thirst no more. All are welcome 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**

"All Hail King Jesus / Get All Excited"

**All hail King Jesus
All hail Emmanuel
King of kings
Lord of lords
Bright Morning Star
And for all eternity
I'm going to praise Him
And forevermore
I will reign with Him**

**Get all excited go tell ev'rybody that
Jesus Christ is King
I said get all excited go tell ev'rybody that
Jesus Christ is King
I said get all excited go tell ev'rybody that
Jesus Christ is King**

**Jesus Christ is still the King of kings
King of kings**

***DISMISSAL**

P *Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.*

G **Thanks be to God!**