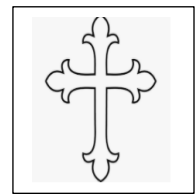


Perley Lutheran Parish
November 22nd, 2020
Christ the King



Gathering Hymn Oh Worship the King
Oh, worship the King, all glorious above.
Oh, gratefully sing his power and his love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

Welcome and Announcements

- Letters out – Thanksgiving change to Thanksgiving Day at 10
- Special thanks to Laura Jossund and others for helping with the Thanksgiving service
- Sunday School packets went out last week. If you have pictures of your kids doing their lessons/crafts etc... send them in to John or myself
- Help our Digital Light Shine – if you can't do go fund me you can always mail in a check (Please note "go fund me" in the subject line)
- Reach out to Pastor or office if you need anything

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy One,

We confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through +Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen**

Prayer of the Day

O God of power and might, you 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.

Psalm 95:1-7 (Read Responsively)

O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!** For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. **In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.** The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed. **O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!** For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-16. 20-24

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. 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. 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. 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 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. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Holy Gospel according Matthew 25:31-46, **Glory to you O Lord**

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children’s Message

When someone does something nice for you, what do you do? You say, "Thank you," don't you? Sometimes that just doesn't seem to be enough. Has someone ever done something for you that was so nice that you wanted to do more than just say, "Thank You"? I have. When that happens, I sometimes send them a "Thank You" card. (Give each child a card and pencil.) Everyone enjoys receiving a "Thank You" card. Think about a time you sent a

card or note like this. (Invite a few kids to share about a time they thanked someone with a card.)

Another way you can show your thanks when someone does something really nice for you is by doing something nice for them in return. Like if someone invites you to spend the night and you have a really good time, you return their kindness by inviting them to come and spend the night with you. It's always important to show we're thankful when someone does something for us.

I don't know anyone who has done more for us than God has. God provides food when we're hungry and water when we're thirsty. He heals us when we're sick and He comforts us when we're sad. The Bible tells us that He is an ever-present helper in times of trouble. Take a moment now to write or draw something you're thankful to God for. (Allow time for kids to write thankful messages to God in their cards. Invite kids to briefly share with a neighbor what they wrote.)

Because of all God has done for us, we say, "Thank you." But He's done much! I have an idea to do even more to thank God.

Jesus told us how to do it. Jesus said, "Whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you do it for me." That means when we feed someone who is hungry, it is the same as doing it for Jesus. When we visit someone who is sick, it is the same as doing it for Jesus. When we give clothes to those who are in need, it is the same as doing it for Jesus.

There is a very special name for this way of saying, "Thank you." I call it "thanks living." "Thanks living" is when we show our thanks by the way we live. "Thanks living" is when we look at the many ways God has blessed us, and we thank Him by sharing His blessings with others. (Invite kids to share specific ways they can participate in "thanks living" this week.)

Take home your cards and put them somewhere as a reminder to show your thanks to God in the way you live. Let's pray and ask God to help us offer our thanksgiving by "thanks living."

Dear God, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving. Help us turn our thanksgiving into "thanks living." Help us notice people around us who are in need and ways we can care for them like You care for us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Today is Christ the King Sunday – the last Sunday in the Church year – which means Advent starts next week. Our readings today are focused on the end of times and some last things. We’ve really been focusing on that theme now for a few weeks. We had the parable of the tenants in the vineyard a few weeks back who killed the king’s son so they could take the harvest. We had the story of the King’s wedding banquet where someone didn’t dress the part and was cast out into the darkness because of his wardrobe. We had the parable of the bridesmaids who were foolish and didn’t bring oils for their lamp and were locked out of the wedding feast and celebration. Now today we are turning to the parable that talks about the events of the last day – or judgement day. Jesus is telling the story – he wants them and us to pay attention and not make light of the information he is teaching. As much as we may wish to ignore the fact that we will be judged – we know that Jesus will again come to take us and that their will indeed be a time that we are all judged.

I don’t know about you but I really would much rather focus on the baby Jesus, or maybe the healing Jesus, or the miraculous Jesus. We might even find ourselves focusing on the crucified Christ and the risen Savior – especially when we are dealing with end of life situations. We of course love to think about Jesus ascending to heaven to prepare a place for us. Sure – we also have those moments when we think of Jesus as not being fast enough, as not doing what WE want or expect and even a Jesus who seems hard to feel and understand. That however is not the focus of what our Gospel is teaching today.

Today we see Jesus as a judge. I have been in a court room a handful of times in my life. Most of the times when it came to my children and or grandchildren and parenting rights. Once I even had to go to court because I was attacked by a neighborhood dog and needed my medical bills paid. It doesn’t matter what court is for or if you are the one fighting or defending the cause – courts are very intimidating. The judge sits above you in the room and everyone is held to a very respectful standard through the time you are sharing the case. And then comes the anxious moments as the judge determines the outcome and shares it. You sit there in the silence wondering if you have done all that you needed to do to get the result you had hoped for.

So what do you suppose the anxiousness will be when the day comes that the Lord and King shows up – the entire universe and all that He has created – will sit in judgement. Judgement of you and me and all of us. Judging not what we look or act like that day but rather on everything – fully and completely – every thought, word, act, everything in our entire lives. Nothing is not known to Him.

Honestly, it’s way more than you and I can even begin to comprehend much less think and worry about. We know, each of us, the sorry set of circumstances that tell the story of our lives as sinful people. Not a life that any of us would want on display for all to see but our passage says that he lines us up. Sorts us out – sheep on His right and goats on His left.

The sheep hear *“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.’* And they respond in shock – wait a minute - what do you mean?? When did we ever see you? And the goats – they definitely hear a different story *“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.’* And they too respond in shock – wait a minute - what do you mean?? When did we ever see you? We didn’t do to the least so we didn’t do to you?? What???

What’s interesting is how surprising the answers is to the sheep and the goats – the good and the evil, the righteous and unrighteous. They say the exact same thing – when, when did we ever see you?? Neither side actually saw the Lord in need. It’s not that one say the Lord and the other did not. It’s that none of them saw so what makes the two sides so different? What is going on here?

It's a matter of sight – a matter of seeing or not seeing the sign that separates us from God. The goats were blinded to the sin. The same sin that you and I are all born into, which separates us from God as well and which continues to blind us from accepting and acknowledging our sinful selves. This blindness not only kept the goats and keeps us from seeing the Lord but also seeing the need of others – ignoring the need of the neighbor.

The sheep though – they also didn't see the Lord but they saw their neighbor. They helped the neighbor by feeding him, clothing him, caring for him in prison and the hospital. The Lord then says "You did it to me". But wait, they didn't see Jesus so how did they do it to "him"? They didn't see him because they too were blind but they were not seeing because of the blindness of love. They were full of the love of Christ – a love that is indeed blind.

Think about this – the same Christ who will judge us is also the Christ that is the Good Shepherd. He knows his sheep – knows us all by name. The same Christ who gave us the living water, who knows what we need, gives us body and blood. The same Christ who saw our weaknesses as flesh and came to be with us in the same human form. The same Christ who saw us imprisoned in sin and gave his own life for us – died and rose so we may rise as well.

As Christians we find the love of Christ in our hearts showing in so many, many ways. We see the love of Christ when we care and love our families. We see the love of Christ we can be kind and helpful and cheerful to others – even when they may not inspire us to be that way. Christ has called each of us, made us His sheep and poured out his love for you, to you, on you and in you. Jesus came to walk among us in the flesh to show us God's love and allow us to actually see what God was like. Jesus was involved with man and that's what sheep are as well – they are involved with those who are naked, those who are hungry, those who are strangers and those who are imprisoned. BUT it's not involvement that is done strictly through religious practice or in being good – no, it's being involved in the mundane – an awareness always in the needs of others and seeking to serve those who are in need.

How do we love our God today?? According to our scriptures today it is in loving others. By loving one another we are loving God because Jesus said. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me." This is the life to which you and you and you have been called. Will you answer?

Amen.

Special Hymn of the Day When the Stars Burn Down

When the stars burn down and the earth wears out
and we stand before the throne with the witnesses who have gone before
We will rise and all applaud

Singing blessing and honor, glory and power, forever to our God
Singing blessing and honor, glory and power, forever to our God

When the hands of time wind fully down and the earth is rolled up like a scroll
The trumpets will call and the world will fall to its knees as we all go home

Star of the morning, Light of salvation, Majesty
God of all mysteries, Lord of the universe, Righteous King

There will come a day standing face to face, In a moment, we will be like Him
He will wipe our eyes dry, take us up to His side, and forever we will be His

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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people: (Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**)

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.

Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. May leaders proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevail. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Healing God, even when we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, like Alana and Jeff, like Kirk and Brent, like Paxley and Veronica and Lisa, Anita and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

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.

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

Amen

Blessing

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, +Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. Amen.

Sending Hymn: Crown him with many crowns

Crown him with many crowns, The Lamb upon his throne.
Hark how the heavenly 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.

Dismissal – Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Mark Your Calendars:

Thursday, November 26th – 9AM Facebook Live Stream from Kirkebo

Sunday, November 29th – 9AM Facebook Live Stream from Nora – First Sunday of Advent