



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

“Encouraging faith and proclaiming God’s love by Gathering, Growing and Giving.”

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Christ the King Sunday

November 26th 2023

This worship is being live streamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

NOTE: **Bold text** indicates worshipers’ response, and * means please stand as able.

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Pastor Ron Gerl

Reader: *Brandy Carothers*

Acolyte: mystery guest

Video: *Dave Young*

Usher: *Tim Jenson*

GATHERING

* GREETING The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

* GATHERING HYMN Crown Him with Many Crowns LBW#170- verses 1-4

Crown Him with Many Crowns

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.

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.

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 burning eyes at mysteries so bright.

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.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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 do not see your beautiful image in one another. 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.

* FORGIVENESS 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 Almighty and everlasting God, **whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow LBW#564

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

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GROWING

Our first reading is from the 34th chapter of Ezekiel.

Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24 NIV

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.

¹¹ "For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.

¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ 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. ²⁰Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, ²²I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. ²³I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

Here ends the first reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please join in reading Psalm 95 1-7a responsively.

Psalm 95: 1-7a NIV

¹Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

²**Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

³For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

⁴**In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.**

⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;**

⁷for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Our second reading is from Ephesians 1st chapter.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23 NIV

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.

¹⁵I 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.

Here ends the second reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46 NIV

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.

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² 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. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴ "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. ³⁵ 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, ³⁶ 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.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ "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.' ⁴¹ "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. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ 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.' ⁴⁴ "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?' ⁴⁵ "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.' ⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O, Christ.

MESSAGE **"The Good We Do!"**

Pastor Ron Gerl

* HYMN OF THE DAY Praise and Thanksgiving LBW#409- all verses

Praise and Thanksgiving

Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we would offer for all things living, created good: harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

Bless, Lord the labor we bring to serve you, that with our neighbor we may be fed. Sowing or tilling, we would work with you, harvesting, milling for daily bread.

Father, providing food for your children, by your wise guiding teach us to share one with another, so that, rejoicing with us, all others may know your care.

Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people, freely confessing your gracious hand. Where all obey you, no one will hunger; In your love's sway you nourish the land.

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Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.

* THE APOSTLES' CREED (professed together)

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**

*Or, He descended to the dead. ** universal

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries. **Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection. **Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected. **Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. We pray for those who suffer. **Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

In Christ we are made the people of his pasture. Inspire the outreach and social ministries of this congregation. We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. **Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us. Unite us with them as one body of Christ.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary. Your generous giving supports God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill.

*OFFERING HYMN We are an Offering ELW#692

We are an Offering

We lift our voices we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands, Lord use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering, we are an offering.

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Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957

* OFFERING PRAYER God of power, **God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

* 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

* BENEDICTION

* ANNOUNCEMENTS

* 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 Lead On, O King Eternal LBW#495- all verses

Lead On, O King Eternal!

Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy the heav'nly kingdom comes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



*November 11th was Veterans Day {Veterans Day honors those who have served or are currently serving}- bring in a picture of your veteran and put it on Our Church Family bulletin board located in the education wing hallway. *Please label photo**



Love Lights Forms are Now Available. Forms are on Welcome table in gathering area. Lights are \$10.00 per person honored. Proceeds split as such 50% to Christmas for Kids Program and 50% to general fund.

Effective 10/16 Secretary will be in the office Mondays 9:45-11:45 am or occasional Wednesday 6-8 pm depending on her schedule.

Please note different hours on Monday this week

SIGN UP TO HOST A SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP~

Serve with family or friends **or** pair up with a "veteran" fellowship server- we love to help! Entails: Making/serving coffee, cut/serve summer sausage and cheese, and crackers (found in the church refrigerator/ cabinets), and bring one treat (fruit or sweets or popcorn...you choose). Then just clean up after the event.

MAILING ADDRESSES for those folks who you may want to send words of care/concern/sympathy. **Please let the secretary know if you would like to be added and/ or know someone who might like to be.**

Kay Tubbs passed away on Thursday November 16th 2023. There will be a celebration of life service at the end of December in Eau Claire. More info to come. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

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