



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI  
Christ the King Sunday  
November 22, 2020  
**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
In Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*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 we await 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.*

### Christ Is the King!



1 Christ is the king! O friends, re - joice; broth - ers and sis - ters,  
2 Oh, mag - ni - fy the Lord, and raise an - thems of joy and  
3 O Chris - tian wom - en, Chris - tian men, all the world o - ver,  
4 Let Love's all - rec - on - cil - ing might your scat - tered com - pa -  
5 So shall the church at last be one; so shall God's will on



with one voice let the world know he is your choice.  
ho - ly praise for Christ's brave saints of an - cient days.  
seek a - gain the Way dis - ci - ples fol - lowed then.  
nies u - nite in ser - vice to the God of light.  
earth be done, new lamps be lit, new tasks be - gun.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

### Prayer of the Day

O God of power and might, 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.**

## FIRST READING

*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.*

### A reading from Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

<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.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### 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 above 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.

## **SECOND READING**

*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.*

A reading from Ephesians 1:15-23

<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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL READING**

*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.*

**The gospel according to Mathew 25:31-46**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

How do you see Jesus?

Do you see him on his holy throne judging the nations ("gentiles")?

Do you see him nailed to the cross, shedding his blood for all humanity?

Do you see him as a baby lying in a manger, with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, sheep, (goats?), and other animals surrounding him?

Perhaps you see him as described in this carol:

Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night.

Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown,

The Lord of heav'n to earth come down.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown, with dark and heavy hair.

Some children see Him almond-eyed, this Savior whom we kneel beside.

Some children see Him almond-eyed, with skin of yellow hue.

Some children see Him dark as they, sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray.

Some children see Him dark as they, and, ah! they love Him, too!

The children in each different place will see the baby Jesus' face like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace, and filled with holy light.

O lay aside each earthly thing and with thy heart as offering,  
come worship now the infant King. 'Tis love that's born tonight!

(Wihla Hutson & Alfred S. Burt, "Some Children See Him," 1951)

Jesus' arrival on earth was not what one would imagine for a king--born in a manger in Bethlehem. Jesus, the Son of God, began life as a baby and grew to be a child, young man, and adult through each developmental stage of life--fully human and fully divine. As an adult, Jesus spent three years with his disciples teaching them about God, the world, humanity, compassion, caring for others, healing, hope, peace, and especially, love. But Jesus had a divine mission: A mission from God the Father to save humanity.

Do you see Jesus on the cross?

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

**[Lord, when did we see you sick and in prison...?]**

Then Jesus said, 'Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

**[Lord, when did we see you naked?]**

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!'

**[Lord, when did we see you lonely?]**

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine...

**[Lord, when did we see you thirsty? When did we see you hungry?]**

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!'

**[Lord, when did we see you a stranger?]**

But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you today you will be with me in Paradise.'

(Luke 23:33-43, highlighted with key verses from today's gospel passage)

Do you see Jesus, resurrected and ascending into heaven, opening the way for the faithful to eternal life?

Do you see Jesus on his holy throne surrounded by angels, dividing people into groups; those on his right and those on his left? He is judging them, but not as many on earth

would judge them. He is not judging them by age, gender, economic status, color, race, national origin, ethnicity, or ability. Neither group sees Jesus in those who are hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or a prisoner. Those on the left make excuses, but those on the right do so out of naivete. Those on the right have helped those who were hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or a prisoner. They did so not for merit or recognition. They did so from the outpouring of their hearts through the work of the Holy Spirit! They did so without thinking that in helping those who were hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or a prisoner, that they were in reality, helping Jesus!

The criminal who said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" is there. His misdeeds and failings during his lifetime have not condemned him to be with those on the left. Instead, his belief in Jesus, and Jesus' grace, place him with those on Jesus' right.

Jesus said, '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' (vs. 45).

We need to see the infant Jesus, "Emmanuel, God with us," not only on Christmas Day, but every day.

We need to see Jesus on the cross, dying in obedience to God the Father, so that we will believe in Jesus, experience God's grace, and know what it means to have forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.

We need to see Jesus, resurrected in all his glory, King of King and Lord of Lords, seated on his holy throne.

And we need to see Jesus now, in every human being: young, old, male, female, rich, poor, black, white, of all nations--every human being. Every human being.

Mother Teresa, who lead the Missionaries of Charity worked with the homeless, sick and dying. She spoke about God's great concern for humanity and God's love:

Mother Teresa's friends and followers were drawn to her from all walks of life and religions. Speaking to a group which she knew had never felt the pangs of hunger for food, but perhaps silently suffered the hunger for love, she told about this experience which had greatly moved her.

'None of us know what is the pain of hunger, but one day I learnt it from a little child. I picked up the child from the street. He was just six years old. I could see from his eyes that he was very, very hungry. I have seen that terrible hunger in many eyes. I gave him a piece of bread and instead of eating it as fast as possible, he started eating it crumb by crumb. I said to him: "Eat, eat the bread, you are hungry," and that little one looked at me and said: "I am afraid that the bread will be finished and I will be hungry again."

'That little one already knows the terrible pain of hunger which you and I may not know. That is why I say: Open your eyes and see, for there is hunger not only for a piece of bread; there is hunger for understanding love, for the word of God.'

(Le Joly and Chalia, eds., Mother Teresa's Reaching Out In Love, pg. 43.)

Years ago, as a young man, a college student ran a 24/7 food pantry. It was an outreach program of Lutheran Campus Ministry. He told a story about one Saturday morning at 6 a.m., when he was in bed upstairs. He heard someone pounding and

pounding on the door to the food pantry. He had been up late the night before and didn't feel like getting out of bed. The pounding continued on and off, with the visitor calling out saying something like, "I have children who need food!" But, the young person chose not to get out of bed.

The next day, the Campus Minister who oversaw the 24/7 food pantry said to the young man that someone had come to the pantry the previous morning and no one had answered the door. The Campus Minister said, "It was Jesus."

When we see a person who is hungry, we see Jesus.

When we see a person who is sick, we see Jesus.

When we see a person who is thirsty, we see Jesus.

When we see a person who is lonely, we see Jesus.

When we reach out to any of God's humanity in love, we see Jesus, and they see Jesus in us.

Amen

### **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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.**

You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of justice and peace for all through unity and reconciliation.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Restore our capacity to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are in distress due to depression or anxiety. We pray for those dealing with abuse. We pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit, including Katie, Carla, Ruth, Judy, Alrita, Lisa, Pam, Doug, Chris, Frank, Jeff, Harvey, those affected by the Coronavirus, and those we name aloud and in our hearts.

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.**

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.

**Amen.**

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

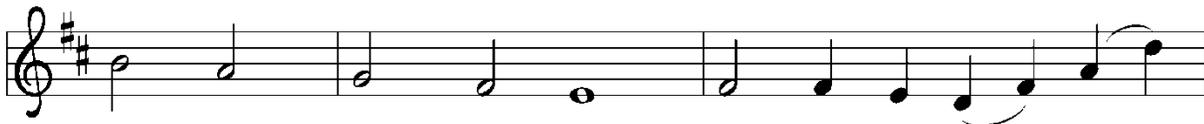
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## Jesus Shall Reign



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET. attr. John Hatton. d. 1793

P: Beloved of God,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Katie Wallace, Carla Von Haden, Ruth Johnson, Judy Bever, Alrita Ornes, Lisa Rhodes, Pam Liefke, Doug Path, Chris Chambers, Frank Wendt, Jeff (Scott) DuCharme, Harvey Menn, Annette Udulutch, Jim Finer

#### **IN THE MILITARY**

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Robert Cale

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **THANKOFFERINGS**

Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? And we are so grateful. That's why we give Thankofferings. Envelopes are included in today's bulletin. You may either place your Thankoffering in the collection or mail your offering to the office at your convenience. We would appreciate receiving your offering by the end of November. Thank you.

#### **CHRISTMAS ANGELS AND GOOD GIFTS**

Each household of the congregation should have received information with regard to this project. We will be announcing a "decorating" gathering in next weeks bulletin. We anticipate decorating the tree, the railings, and erecting the Nativity. Of course, we will ask that folks wear masks and practice social distancing. Should be fun!! Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. You don't have to decorate, just come and supervise from your car if you'd like!!

#### **CONTACTS DURING CORONAVIRUS CLOSURE**

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, or call Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever (608-387-2311). To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani or Louise Buchholz (608-435-6435). Additional Contact Information:

Pastor Cathleen: [cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu](mailto:cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu)

Justin Arndt: [arndt.now@gmail.com](mailto:arndt.now@gmail.com)

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Website: <https://www.stpaulswilton.com/>

FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Like many of you, I have been thinking about how different this Thanksgiving will be in comparison to all others. The guidance that we have received, encourages us not to gather with anyone outside our immediate household. This guidance reflects the increasing Coronavirus numbers in Wisconsin, including Monroe County. It is offered to us for our safety and well-being.

I have been making notes and collecting articles on Thanksgiving Day alternatives to pass along to you. Here are some ideas--

\* **Meet virtually with extended family and friends.** Through online meetings or conference calls, you can safely visit. If you would like to add something special--

\* **Play Bingo.** Gather some small, one dollar gifts, wrap them, and send them to your extended family prior to Thanksgiving. Then, on Thanksgiving Day, play virtual Bingo! Set up a meeting/call and have each family print out some Bingo cards using online resources (or send them some with the gifts). When someone wins, have them open one of the wrapped prizes. Enjoy!

\* **Give blood as a family.** The American Red Cross suggests that families attend a blood drive at a scheduled time and "give the gift of life." The Wilton Blood Drive will be held on Saturday, December 5. This is a jointly sponsored event with the Brookwood H.S. FFA for their scholarship fund. The goal is to achieve 100 units! Times are available from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., due to the higher number of donations desired. For more information, contact Nalani.

\* **Send letters.** Do you know someone who will be alone this Thanksgiving? Now is a wonderful time to send them a note to spread some happiness. If you prefer, get a headstart on your Christmas cards.

\* **Get a flu shot.** Today (November 19) is National Rural Health Day, so what better time than today to get your flu shot. Doing so will protect you from the flu and keep you in better health in the event you do contract the Coronavirus.

\* From "To gather or not to gather?" (*La Crosse Tribune*, November 15, 2020, p. A6), here are two lower risk ideas--

\* **Preparing traditional family recipes for family and neighbors** and delivering them in a way that doesn't involve contact.

\* **Watching sports events, parades, and movies from home.**

\* **Invite family and friends to watch a special worship service created by the La Crosse Area Synod's World Hunger Subcommittee.** On November 29, we will be using this special service for Sunday worship. Those with computer access will be able to watch the video on YouTube and forward the information to family members and friends. Those without computer

access will receive the church bulletin and Bishop Arends' sermon via regular mail. The service will give all of us "food for thought!" It will provide additional ideas about how we can spread God's love on Thanksgiving weekend and throughout the Advent season.

While Thanksgiving is still a week away, this letter gives you time to consider these ideas and choose one or more for your family. At this time when we are together in spirit, but physically apart, we can still find ways to extend joy and happiness to each other, our families, our friends, and our neighbors in need. I pray that all of you will have a safe, enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy

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