

*Welcome to worship at  
Faith Lutheran Church*

CHRIST THE KING

November 22, 2020

*Worship Service*

Print = Pastor or Worship Leader

**Bold** = Congregation



*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.*

LIGHT CANDLE

**GATHERING WORDS**

From mist and darkness. From restful waters

**GOD GATHERS US**

From health and sickness. From plenty and poverty

**GOD GATHERS US**

From highways and byways. From fields and cities

**GOD GATHERS US**

To a feast, a banquet, to life eternal

**GOD GATHERS US SAFE HOME**

Christ the King. King of justice

**WE BELONG TO YOU**

Christ the King. King of glory

**WE BELONG TO YOU**

Christ the King. King of integrity

**WE BELONG TO YOU**



**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**

# WORD

The First Lesson is from Ezekiel in the 34<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24** OT Page #895

*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 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 12 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. 13 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. 14 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. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 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. 20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The psalm for today is **95:1-7a** will you please read it responsively with me.

*We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)*

Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

For the LORD is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture  
and the sheep of God's hand.

The Second Lesson is from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter **Ephesians**

**Ephesians 1:15-23** NT Page #204

*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.*

I 15I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I 16I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I 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, I 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, I 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 25:31-46** NT Page #29

*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:] 31 "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. 32 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, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 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; 35 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, 36 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.' 37 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? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 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.' 41 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; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 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.' 44 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?' 45 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.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## OFFERING

*We also encourage those who are able to continue to make their faithful, generous offerings to FAITH. We know that some will be unable to do this, especially if they lose their jobs or work hourly in an industry that has been hard-hit by this situation. If you are able those offerings can be mailed to the church.*

## PRAYER

*Then enter into a time of prayer, sharing in prayer requests that you have received and praying for those specifically.*

## CLOSING

### 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, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**



### BLESSING

May God give you the grace to never sell yourself short; Grace to risk something big for something good; and Grace to remember the world is now too dangerous for anything but the truth and too small for anything but love.

The blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and remain with you this day and always. **Amen.**

### PEACE

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

## EXTINGUISH CANDLE



