

Christ the King Sunday
in the 167 Year of the Parish
November 22, 2020. 8:00 & 10:30 am
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market St., Williamsport, PA (17701)
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Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

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Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”

PRELUDE “Sarabande”

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

***HYMN *Oh, Worship the King*.....ELW 842**

**Oh, worship the King, all glorious above,
Oh, gratefully sing God's power and love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.**

**O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn you above,
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing of your praise.**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

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.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

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.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95:1-7a (*Read responsively*)

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD;

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

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

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

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

5The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**6Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

7aFor the LORD is our God,
**and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's
hand.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....Ephesians 1:15-23

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.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***THE GOSPEL.....Matthew 25:31-46**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[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. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34Then 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; 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.’ 37Then 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? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ 40And 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.’ 41Then 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; 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.’ 44Then 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?’ 45Then 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.’ 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope we affirm our faith.

C **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Hear us O God/Your mercy is great.

***THE PEACE**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The image shows a musical score for a hymn, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,". The second staff continues: "heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est." The third staff continues: "Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -". The fourth staff concludes: "san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases held over from the previous staff.

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.”

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us.

**C 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.**

***THE COMMUNION**

P There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' Table.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THE BLESSING**

P 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,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you today and always.

C Amen

***HYMN** *Crown Him with Many Crowns*ELW 855

**Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavn'ly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake my soul and sing of him who died for thee,
and him as thy matchless king through all eternity.**

**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,
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.**

***DISMISSAL**

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

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “*Festive Trumpet Tune*” David German (b. 1954)

Flowers: Our altar flowers are given to the glory of God...

In honor of Harold Hershberger's birthday by Mike, Pam and Sean Jensen.

In loving memory of my mother, Betty Jane Avery by Sally Bjornstad

Altar Guild:

Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright

Ushers:

8 am: Dick Miller and Herb Poff

10:30 am: Carl Albright (Captain), Brenda, Owen, and Levi Gair

Lectors- 8 am: Leah Haussmann

10:30 am: Linda Rosini

Prayer List: Liz Ruesskamp, Richard Albright, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Ruth Pile, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Paul Young, Bob Shaible, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Gladys Knauss, Patricia Alexander, Diane Osbaugh, Joann Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Pr. Frank Showers, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Esteban Mazer, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Cheryl Williams, Bernadette Jones, Gregg, Kay Poliska, Ben Hufnagel and Steve Dewar.

Prayers of Comfort and Peace for the family of Randy Knauss

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE

Worship Attendance- *Sunday, November 15*

8 am -16 10:30 am- 38

Total Offering: \$2361.00

Regular \$1724 Capital \$50 World Hunger \$50

Food Pantry \$100 Global Missions \$25 Misc. \$399

Plate \$10 Sunday School \$3

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Today, Sunday, November 22:

Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the liturgical year.

Confirmation Class, 9:15 am

Thursday, November 26, “Thanksgiving Day”. Church Office closed.
Best wishes for a “Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving”.

Sunday, November 29, The First Sunday of Advent

Confirmation Class, 9:15 am

Wednesday, December 2, Advent Mid-week Service, 12:15 pm (Nave).

Thursday, December 24: Holy Communion at 7 and 10 pm (*Weather and Pandemic Permitting*).