

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020
**REIGN OF CHRIST &
STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION SUNDAY**
ST/JOHN'S



REIGN OF CHRIST & STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Sunday, November 22, 2020

9:30 am

INTRODUCTION

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.

PRELUDE

Now Thank We All Our God by Sigrid Karg-Elert

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

GATHERING HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name, ELW 634



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—
4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of power and love, your Child shows us the way of service, and in Christ 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 +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹¹Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As 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. ¹³I 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. ¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I 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.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95

O come let us sing | unto the | Lord
Let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of | our sal- | vation.
Let us come before His presence with thanks- | giv-| ing;
And make a joyful | noise unto | Him with | psalms.
For the Lord is a | great | God
And a great | King a- | bove all | gods.
In His hand are the deep places | of the | earth;
The strength of the hills is | His | al- | so.

The sea is His, and He | made | it;
And His hands | formed | the dry | land.
Oh, come let us worship and | bow | down;
Let us kneel before the | Lord our | mak- | er.

For He | is our | God
And we are the people of His pasture and the | sheep of | His hand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
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.’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

SERMON

Pastor Allison Bengfort

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us, ELW 789



1 Sav - ior like a shep - herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard - ian of our way;
 3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, for our use your fold pre - pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

+ Holy Baptism +

PRESENTATION

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: We present Leelavathy Louise Chittajallu for baptism.

Pastor: Emily and Sumanth, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Leelavathy baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: As you bring Leelavathy to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with the following responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, to bring her to the word of God and the Holy Supper, to teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, to place in her hands the holy scriptures, and to nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Leelavathy in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support Leelavathy and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

Congregation: **We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Together, we now profess our faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

People of God, do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

BAPTISM

Leelavathy Louise Chittajallu, I baptize you in the name of the Creator,

who is our Mother and our Father,

in the name of the Son, who is the Christ,

and in the name of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

ANOINTING

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Leelavathy with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Leelavathy, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

Presentation of gifts to the newly baptized.

As the baptismal candle is presented:

Leelavathy, let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Creator in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

The congregation may applaud.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response:

Lord, in your mercy, *or* Lord, we praise you,
Hear our prayer. **Thanks be to God.**

+ Thanksgiving +

STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION PRESENTATION

OFFERING MUSIC

We Give Thee but Thine Own, ELW 686



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be made online at stjohnswilmette.org/give. You may also write a check made out to St. John's Lutheran Church and mail it to 1235 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life
with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

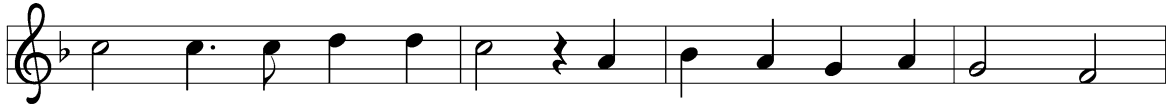
LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

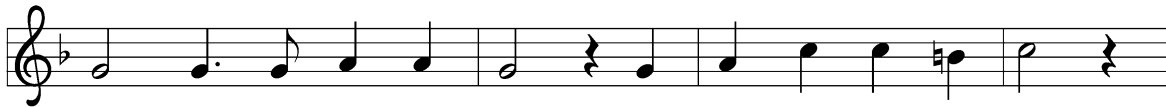
May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

DISMISSAL

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Now go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

SERVING TODAY

Preaching & Presiding Minister: The Rev. Allison Bengfort
Music Director & Organist: Dr. Robert McConnell
Cantor: Hannah McConnell
Minister of the Word: Alla Rusz
Virtual Usher: Luke Rasmussen

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
 Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #37064.

IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Craig Gonder, his girlfriend, Stephanie Gablaoui, and her son, Malik, for healing and recovery from COVID
- † Beth Gonder, sister of Craig, and her boyfriend, Jake Peterson, for healing and recovery from COVID
- † James, friend of Craig Gonder, in need of healing and recovery from COVID
- † A co-worker of James, recovering from COVID
- † Stanley Smith, brother-in-law of Margye Smith, and his family, experiencing several cases of COVID
- † The family and friends of Carolyn Rasmussen, grandmother of Luke Rasmussen, who died 10/9/20
- † Art Garcia, friend of Chad Johnson, recovering from a heart attack and pneumonia
- † Tony & Alissandra Swanson, friends of the Abudayeh family, as they mourn the death of their 7-year-old son
- † Alan Williams, stepfather of Christi Wise, recovering from surgery
- † Frank Ziegler, in need of healing
- † Iden Nowlin, friend of the Abudayeh family, recovering from cancer surgery
- † The families of Salwa Sous and Kevin Anderson, family members of Stephanie & Elias Abudayeh, as they mourn the loss of their loved ones
- † Rachel Cordts, recovering from cancer surgery
- † The family and friends of Pastor Bob Stout, former pastor of the Abudayeh family, who died 9/12/20
- † Cam Wise, for physical and emotional health
- † Ken Kastman, healing from broken ribs after a fall
- † Janet Rassenfoss and Alan Swanson, on the birth of their first grandchild, Molly Francis Wilka, on 7/6/20
- † The family and friends of Bob Anderson who died 6/8/20
- † The family and friends of Matt Dossa, nephew of Jim Dossa, who died 6/7/20
- † Sylvia Cushing, cousin of Olga Domchenko, in need of healing
- † Doris Regan and her family, for strength and support as she receives hospice care
- † Janet Witt, cancer diagnosis
- † Virginia Milnikel, broken arm
- † Lani Miller
- † Doug Peters, who died 11/19/20
- † Linda Bengfort, mother of Pastor Allison, ongoing back pain
- † Greyson Nester
- † Margaret (Maggie) Oxland
- † Marty Anderson
- † Ellie Basnik, mother-in-law of Chad Johnson, cancer diagnosis
- † Gil Basnik, father-in-law of Chad Johnson, in need of healing
- † The family of Paul Escamilla, friend of Elias & Stephanie Abudayeh
- † Sydney Johnson, her work
- † Mark Voosen
- † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Ed Price, friend of Sarah Rink
- † Jodi Kretzman, friend of Peter Knobel
- † Jessica Sandoval, friend of the Radde family
- † Fred Rudolphi, friend of Bill Kaspar, in need of healing
- † The family and friends of Helene Tadros, Olga Domchenko's sister, who died 4/6/20, and especially for William Sciarrino, Helene's caretaker
- † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baptism of Leela Chittajallu

It is with great joy that we celebrate the baptism of Leela Chittajallu today, welcoming her into the Body of Christ. We rejoice with her parents, Emily and Sumanth, and we welcome the family members who join us for worship today. Thanks be to God for the gift of this child!

Celebration Sunday Drive-Through Communion & Advent Box Pick-Up

Today, we celebrate the culmination of our Stewardship Season with drive-through Holy Communion. You are invited to stop by the church parking lot any time between 11 am and 1 pm to receive the sacrament from Pastor Allison. Those who attend will also receive an Advent Box, filled with special items for use during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Those who are not able to attend will receive their Advent box by personal delivery or mail.

Intent Cards

If you have not done so already, please visit stjohnswilmette.org/give to submit your intent card online. You may also return your card by mail as soon as possible. Keep in mind our two challenge gifts made possible by a few anonymous donors this year:

- A \$3,000 bonus gift if we reach our goal of submitting 55 intent cards
- A dollar-for-dollar match on the increase of any household currently giving \$50 per week or less

Please help us reach our goals of increasing giving by \$700 per week next year. Let's invest in our future together!

Death of Doug Peters

On Thursday, November 19th, our sibling in Christ, Doug Peters, died and rose to be among the eternal cloud of witnesses. We give thanks for his life, and we will miss him dearly. A Memorial Service will be scheduled for January.

Women's Ordination Anniversaries Adult Forum Series

In 2020, the ELCA celebrates 50 years of ordaining women to the ministry of word and sacrament. Beginning Sunday, November 29th, we will explore the history of women's ordination and discover the ways we still need to grow as a church in creating equality for women and people of all genders.

Children's Social Time

Next Sunday, we will begin offering time for children to connect with one another in an unstructured way before worship. This Children's Social Time will begin at 9:15 am on our regular worship zoom link. If you have a young person at home, please log on and say hello!

Phase 3 Precautions

In response to the state of Illinois' move back to Phase 3 of the COVID recovery process, our congregation will also return to Phase 3 precautions. This means that the building will be closed to all groups, and the church office will be closed as well. Jan and the rest of the staff will continue to work from home. Please reach out to our Re-Entry Team (Pastor Allison, Michel Hauser, Al Swanson, and Christi Wise) if you have any questions.

Holy Family Christmas Giving Tree

This year, due to extreme COVID safety measures in place for the children of Holy Family, they will be using gift cards to purchase gifts for the kids. Although not as much fun as picking out a gift for one of our wonderful and hard-working HFM students, this is the safest way to still say we love you to the

children in their care. Our goal this year is 40 donations at \$25 each. Deadline for the collection is **November 30th**. The Holy Family *Christmas Giving Tree* program has been a part of St. John's for many years, and we don't want to miss blessing the children of Holy Family at this joyous holiday season. This may be the only gift they receive this year. Thank you so much. Please make your checks payable to Cindi Rachowicz and mail them to her home at 2757 Bernard Place, Evanston IL 60201.

A Message from Mindy

I have to launch another GoFundMe as numerous job prospects in Aug/Sep did not pan out and my financial outlook is grim at this time, and I have multiple payments due for less usual expenses. Thanks to your generosity, the June GFM was very successful, so your prayers, positive energy, and support (funny notes, emails, calls) obviously worked. I and my cats Oona and Mimi are very blessed. The cats are especially happy with all the cat toy donations from Susan Crist. Just in mice alone, they now enjoy a huge surplus supply that will last them for years, as I have a 3-mouse maximum in active rotation at any one time in my home! Please continue to keep me in your thoughts and prayers; I just received notice of new job prospects and have responded. I am praying for you and yours as well, especially during this crazy, stressful time of pandemic. My Go Fund Me page can be found [here](#).

Children's Bulletins

Children's bulletins for each Sunday are now available on our website under Worship Bulletins and at the bottom of the eNewsletter each week. Check it out!

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile is a nonprofit founded by Amazon that donates a small percentage of your Amazon purchases to a charity of your choice. If you plan to make any orders on through Amazon, please consider using smile.amazon.com rather than amazon.com to make your purchases. There, you can search for all the same products and have access to all your prime benefits, and when you place your order, you can designate "St John Evangelical Lutheran Church" as your charity. Please note that we recommend Amazon Smile to be used only as an alternative to Amazon.com. Whenever possible, St. John's encourages all its members to make purchases locally

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY

- 9:30 AM Online Worship with Children's Message
and Baptism of Leelavathy Louise Chittajallu
11:00 AM-1:00 PM Drive-Through Communion and Advent Box Pick-Up

WEDNESDAY

- 11:00 AM-12:00 PM Bible Study Online

THURSDAY-FRIDAY

Office Closed for Thanksgiving

SATURDAY

- 5:00 PM Contemplative Service Online

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

- 9:15-9:30 AM Children's Social Time
9:30 AM Online Worship with Children's Message
11:00 AM-12:00 PM Women's Ordination Anniversaries Adult Forum

ST/JOHN'S

1235 Wilmette Avenue • Wilmette, Illinois 60091 • (847) 251-1730
stjohnswilmette.com • Facebook: St. John's Wilmette