



WORSHIP DEVOTIONAL

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA

November 22, 2020

Christ the King Sunday

We have expanded the devotional to include the parts of the service as it will be presented on Facebook this Sunday at 10:30am. We will begin with our Traditional Worship this week and then alternate each week with the Praise being posted for Sunday, Nov. 29th. You may choose to follow along then or anytime after the service is recorded. The videos are saved to the page, so you don't have to watch live if that doesn't work for you.

Prelude

Announcements

Call to Worship

“Enter Now the Gates”

The Good Shepherd Chimes, Soloist: Ken Berg

Opening Hymn

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” Soloist: Ken Berg

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may make the sign of the cross; the sign marked at baptism.

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.**

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

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 LESSON

Ezekiel 34:11-16

New Revised Standard Version

God, the True Shepherd

¹¹ For 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.

Ezekiel 34:20-24

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.

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul's Prayer

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love^[a] toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God^[b] 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, ²¹ 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. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

The Judgment of the Nations

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,^[a] 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.”



SERMON

THE 2nd COMING

Preaching text: Matthew 25:31-46



It's good to be back here today! I'm not trying to rub it in for those of you who can't be here this Sunday. I say that because last Sunday I was taking care of continuing education. I'd like to thank Julie for filling in for me. We are so blessed as a congregation to have someone like her on our staff.

If you remember, two weeks ago the readings mentioned the much anticipated "second coming of Jesus." I pointed out how the early believers expected Jesus to return any day, but days turned into weeks, weeks into months, and months into years. And still, even today, we are waiting for this event often referred to as the "second coming of Jesus." I encouraged you to find Jesus in your life today, not just sometime in the future.

Well, this idea of the second coming comes up again in our Gospel. The problem is that what is so often regarded as the 2nd coming of Jesus is not really the 2nd coming at all. We know Jesus first came at Christmas when he was born. We mark our calendars by it: BC and AD ... and for good reason. It is through Jesus that God revealed certain things to us in a way we could understand. If God wanted to communicate with dogs, God would've become a dog. If God wanted to communicate with birds, God would've become a bird. But God wanted to communicate with human beings. So, God became one of us. That's what happened at Jesus' first coming.

Now, we know very little about Jesus' childhood and nothing about his early adulthood. But Jesus came out of the silence at age 30. That could be considered his "second coming" because it was then that He really came onto the scene of the world.

Jesus died on the cross. But on Easter he rose again. Would that be the 3rd coming of Jesus? After all, he did come back from the dead. That is the great

message of Easter. We can't celebrate Christmas without Easter. Think about it. Christmas is not a happy story if you detach it from Easter ... but it would be a tragedy. An innocent baby, born in a manger, destined for what? Destined to be nailed to a cross ... to be ridiculed and insulted ... and to finally die between two criminals.

But then, after Easter, Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene. Was that the 4th coming? And He walked with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Was that the 5th coming? And his appearance to his eleven frightened followers ... was that the 6th coming? And what about His encounter with Paul on the road to Damascus ... was that the 7th coming? Do you see what I mean?

But didn't Jesus tell us that He would come again at the end of human history? Yes, he did. Why don't I talk about it? Well, for two reasons. 1st, because I know the lessons of Church history. Many, many times Christians have predicted when the end of the world will come. But Jesus himself said nobody knows the hour or the day. If any religious leader, teacher, preacher, or author tries to take their Bible and quote passages, maybe from the books of Daniel, Revelation, Matthew or Ezekiel, and puts it all together and says, "See! Jesus is coming on such and such a date!" don't believe that person. They simply don't know. Only God knows.

But the second reason I don't talk about the time when Jesus will come again, and more importantly, I don't think that dwelling on what is called "the second coming" is valid for Christians because it can become a diversion for what needs to be done today. Mother Teresa, who devoted her life caring for the diseased and dying once said, "It is so easy to be distracted by Heaven and the 2nd coming." If you don't think that's possible realize there are people today who think we don't need to do anything about global warming because Jesus is coming soon.

Jesus had something to say about this in our Gospel for today. He said, (paraphrased) "You know, there will be a great and glorious day when human

history will come to a close and there will be a judgment. And some will be called to join me. And they will be surprised and will ask, "Me Jesus? Me?"

"Yes, you," Jesus will answer, "Because when I was hungry you fed me. When I was thirsty you gave me something to drink. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick or in prison and you visited me."

"Me? When did I do all of that?"

And Jesus will say, "Whenever you did it to the least of these you did it to me."

When we truly care for others, judgment day will take care of itself. Christ comes into our lives and flows right out of them. Christ comes in and Christ goes out. If you can't feel Christ coming in your life, maybe you need to be letting Him flow out of your life in loving action!

So, I'll say what I said two weeks ago again. The second coming is interesting but it's not the most important day to come. The greatest day can be today if you let Jesus into your heart! The greatest day for you can be whenever Jesus comes into your life again and again to be your Lord and Savior and the source of your love to others.

Don't waste your time looking for the "second coming." Jesus has already come into our world countless times already. Every time someone opens themselves up to accepting God's love in their lives, every time they open their heart to Jesus, Jesus comes again and it's beautiful.

This is the end of the Church Year. That means next Sunday is Advent. A great way to end the year is to recommit yourself to loving others and Jesus will be there. It would not only be a great way to end the year, but a great way to begin all our tomorrows!

AMEN.

Hymn

“Beautiful Savior” John Montgomery, Cello Soloist: Ken Berg



HIS KINGSHIP ...
SHALL NEVER BE
DESTROYED.

DANIEL 7:14, NRSV



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

On this Christ the King Sunday, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, today is the climax of the Church Year. We have followed the life of Jesus on earth from beginning to end. And now He reigns in the heavenly places as Christ the King. And He is judging earthlings for what they have done with their lives on earth. Have we followed God's commandments to love Him with all our heart, soul and mind and our neighbors as ourselves? Our texts tell us what that means. Have we fed and clothed those who are hungry and naked? Have we welcomed the stranger among us? Have we released from prison those bound by the devil? Lord in your mercy...

As the Church of Jesus Christ on earth, we attempt to do those things to the glory of God. But when we trust God, our effectiveness is augmented by God's power. Saint Paul, in Ephesians speaks of "the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe... 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." Our actions can have resurrection power, too! Lord in your mercy...

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, president-election, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. We are in a time of confusion, Lord. We pray that we would be transitioning to peace, that your will would be done on earth as it is in heaven...God is our shepherd. His promises are great. He says in Ezekiel, "On a day of clouds and thick darkness...I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep... 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." Thank you for your goodness and mercy. Lord in your mercy...

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus in resurrection power. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and lovingkindness. Renew those we name in our hearts before you now. Lord in your mercy...

With Paul we "pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation." In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

CAROLYN LINN



PRAYER CONCERNS “I HAVE NOT STOPPED GIVING THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS.”

EPHESIANS 1:16, NIV

Members in Need of Prayer:

- Karla Sutton
- Paul Werfelmann
- David Adamcik & Dee Dee Mello
- Mary & Patrick Norris and Children Alex, Isaac, and Michelle
- Margie Kinler
- George Weber
- William & Liz Smith
- Richard & Kay Schumacher
- Karen Kubar
- Irene Pierini
- Jocelyn Miller
- Arlene Robbins
- Kirsten Linder
- Stacy Lairson
- Jim Thompson
- Addie Dornbusch
- Neil & Verna Walden
- Karl & Pauline Ritterbush
- Dee Wright
- Connie Alvarado
- Susan Berg
- Juana On & Family
- Anthony On & Family

Family and Friends:

- Janet Sharp (Diane’s Sister)
 - Taylor Waltrip & Family
 - Diane Changnon (Friend of Sandy T.)
 - Janet Mobley-Hayes (William Hayes Mother)
 - Patti (Susan Linder’s Sister)
 - Karl & Pauline Ritterbush’s Brother-in-law
 - Barbara Lester
 - Kelley Kim
 - Jade Dixon
 - Mike D
 - Anthony Cholicho
 - Jim & Margie (Liz’s Grandpa and his wife)
 - Kim Carlson
 - Denise Maxwell (The Wilk’s sister-in-law)
 - Marlene Miller (Jackie & Ted Miller’s sister-in-law)
 - Melissa Melton
 - Kim Boren & Family
 - Linda (Sandy’s Neighbor)
 - Betty Snyder
 - Joan Rollin
 - Margie Poole
 - Sandy Robbins
 - Kathy Christiansen
 - Arlynn Turnquist
 - Pauline Ritterbush’s Sister
 - Eladio, Celia & Family (Roeding Family)
 - Jen & Matt (The Wilk’s Daughter & husband)
 - Mickey Cecil & Vergie G. (Friends of Patrick Norris)
- Prayers of peace and comfort for the Kathy Christiansen family upon her passing.



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*



The 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,

For ever and ever.

Amen

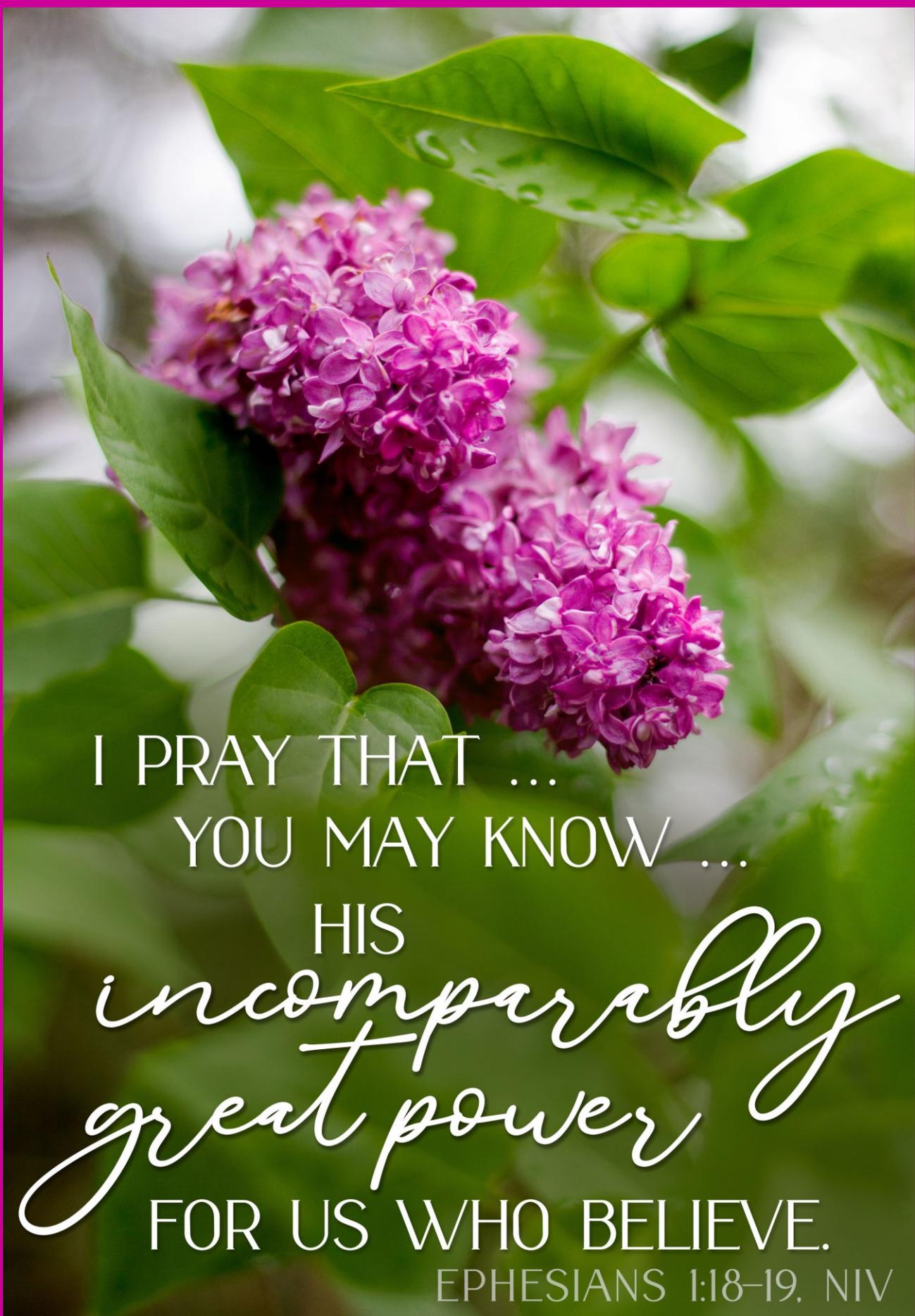
Matthew 6:9-13

Musical Benediction

"Go Now In Love and Peace"

The Good Shepherd Chimes, Soloist: Ken Berg

Postlude



I PRAY THAT ...

YOU MAY KNOW ...

HIS

*incomparably
great power*

FOR US WHO BELIEVE.

EPHESIANS 1:18-19, NIV

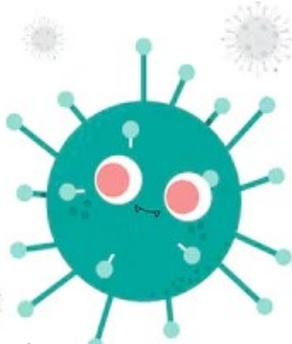
Kathy has included a page for taking notes while you go through the Worship Devotional and a page to color. It has been found that coloring reduces stress and calms a person.

DID YOU KNOW THAT SAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER TAKES EXACTLY AS LONG AS THE CDC RECOMMENDS YOU WASH YOUR HANDS?



*Love your neighbor. Love your God.
Wash and Pray.*

Stay Home



Stay Safe



STAY IN PEACE! SERVE THE LORD! WASH YOUR HANDS! THANKS BE TO GOD!

Our mission statement:

SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS

[View List of Live Streams](#)

