



CHRIST THE KING

November 20, 2022

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

Hymn O Christ, What Can it Mean for Us

ELW 431

- 1 O Christ, what can it mean for us
to claim you as our king?
What royal face have you revealed
whose praise the church would sing?
Aspiring not to glory's height,
to power, wealth, and fame,
you walked a different, lowly way,
another's will your aim.

- 4 You chose a humble human form
and shunned the world's renown;
you died for us upon a cross
with thorns your only crown.
But still, beyond the span of years,
our glad hosannas ring,
for now at God's right hand you reign,
a different kind of king!

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

Let us pray:

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING **Colossians 1:11-20**

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 23:33-43

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

³³When 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. ³⁴[[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And 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!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon The Rev. Henry Herbener

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends "Lord, in your mercy," and the response is "**Hear our prayer.**"

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together

Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as is 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.**

Benediction and Blessing

The God of peace,
who creates all things and calls them good,
who makes us alive in Jesus,
and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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

- 5 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

J. Wayne Kerr

ALTAR FLOWERS given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for His many blessings by Sue Kreitz.

SANCTUARY CANDLE is given in memory of her sister, Debbie Skoglund, by Dianne Reitz Zoll.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CIRCLE OF PRAYER - Hunter Leisey, John Frantz, Nancy Kulp, Pam Cipa, David Metzger, Ed Miller, Charles Hoppman, Melissa Gress Swift, John Wesner, John Bergman, Michael Wargo, Nancy Leffler, Jan Lorah, Sandi Clemens, Nettie Kriener, Clair Sweigart, Larry Knauer, Faith Moyer, Deb Leed, Michael A. Crowther, Eileen Leid, Reba Ranck, Grace Ranck, family of Irene Myers, Dennis Goshert, Ray Fox.

MOST CURRENT INFORMATION – Be sure and check our website regularly for updates and schedules of ongoing activities of the church. www.swamplutheran.org. Church office is open from 8:30AM-12PM daily.

ACTION FUND – Donations are sought for Swamp’s Action Fund to help the needy in our community. Write “Action Fund” in the comment line of your check payable to Swamp Lutheran Church.



Michael A. Crowther
 Clyde Showalter
 Mary Anne Weitzel
 Ella Shirk
 Leona Showalter

Clarice Haws
 Betty Hornberger
 Charles Moyer

Shirley Achey – (neighbor of Sue Kreitz)
 Susan Levan
 Clair Sweigart
 Mary Kring (aunt of Linda Ream)
 Nancy Leffler
 Lisa Buckles (friend of Sue Ellen Knauer)

Katie Houck
 Jean Wolf
 Joan Long



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.

OFFERING ENVELOPES – If you give via the online option, let us know by email (secretary@swamplutheran.org) or by phone to the office so that you will no longer receive offering envelopes for 2022.

FOOD BANK – Needs of the food bank are ongoing and need replenished monthly. Currently, there is a shortage of paper towels, toilet paper, tomato soup, rice, pasta, spaghetti sauces, ketchup, mustard and canned chicken and spam. Thank you for helping as you are able. We distribute on the 2nd Wednesday each month.



Gently Used Sneakers Needed. Cub Pack 95 is collecting sneakers as a fundraiser. Used sneakers (pairs only; athletic shoes only) may be deposited in the bins located in the Narthex and the social hall lobby. The sneakers will be purchased from the Cubs by an organization that resells or recycles them, saving landfill space and natural resources while helping the Scouts raise money to fund their activities. Time to clean out your closets! The Cubs are **not** able to accept any non-athletic footwear including but not limited to dress shoes, heels, rain boots, sandals, slip-ons, water socks, wedges, and work boots of any kind. Questions may be addressed to Cubmaster Travis Leed at 717-381-1608 or email at pack95reinholds@gmail.com



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. As IAN devastated parts of Puerto Rico, Florida and the East Coast these areas are added to the many other areas including the Kentucky rebuilding, and the devastating situation in Ukraine and surrounding countries. Please write your check to Swamp Lutheran and place it in the Disaster Response box in the Narthex. Thank you for giving generously.

ATTENTION THRIVENT FINANCIAL MEMBERS. The Thrivent “Action Teams” program is an opportunity for Thrivent members to lead projects that provide service and outreach to the community. Thrivent Financial will provide funds of \$250 for each project to get started and pay for associated expenses. You may request two grants per year. Swamp Lutheran has many needs that qualify under this program. If you wish to direct your grant request to help with Swamp Lutheran’s activities, please reach out to Lori Gockley who will assist you with the process. Email: lgockley2@gmail.com or call 717-203-8551.

US FLAGS – When a US flag becomes worn, faded, torn or soiled, it should be retired and replaced with a new flag. For those of you interested in retiring your worn US flags, please bring them to the church. We will collect them in the church library and deliver them to the Reinholds VFW who will arrange for them to be retired in proper fashion. Thank you.

BIBLES – Youth with a Mission (YWAM) Lancaster County has an ongoing need for Bibles which they pass out on their ministry outreaches. If you have extra Bibles that you would like to recycle for the expansion of the Kingdom please bring to office or leave outside office door and Brenda will be sure they get to YWAM. Thank you for your generosity.

LAP ROBES – Thank you to those who are knitting and/or crocheting lap robes for the ongoing need of the VA Hospital. Please be aware that the church has received a donation of yarn that is available for your use. Please contact Brenda in the office.

CUB SCOUT FUNDRAISER – R & K Subs is sponsoring a fundraiser for our local PACK 95. The order due date is November 21 with a delivery date of December 5. Order forms are on the table in Narthex.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA is an opportunity to sponsor a wreath and support our SL Youth while honoring an American hero at one of 2,800 locations nationwide. Each wreath sponsorship costs \$15.00 and SLY receives \$5.00 per wreath sponsored. SL Youth will lay the wreaths sponsored at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery on December 17. Let us remember the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice of a veteran is never forgotten. Look for our youth in the Narthex collecting sponsorships and answering questions. Sponsor deadline is November 27.

Hospitality Baskets

We will be putting together hospitality baskets for our sick and shut-ins on December 4th during Hanging of the Greens. The donated items should be placed at either entrance to the church on Sunday, November 20th or Sunday, November 27th. This is a change from previous years. We will not be accepting items for the baskets on Sunday, December 4th.

- Individually wrapped packages of crackers or cookies
- Individual boxes of cereal (one serving size)
- Individually sized canned fruit or pudding packages
- Individual fruit juice cans (one serving size)
- Breakfast bars
- Pocket tissue packs (please do not bring boxes of tissues)
- Individual packages of peanut butter (one serving size – please do not bring jars)
- Individual packages of raisins (one serving size)
- Individual hand sanitizers (the small size)
- Individual tubes of toothpaste and individually wrapped toothbrushes

Important: please note the sizes for these items. We cannot use large jars of peanut butter, boxes of tissues, etc. These need to fit into the baskets. Also, please only bring items on the list.

Thanks for helping to make the holidays brighter for our sick and shut-ins.

This Week in the Parish (November 21– November 27)

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|-------------|--------|--|
| November 20 | 5-8PM | SLY Thanksgiving Dinner |
| November 21 | 7:00PM | Handbell Choir |
| November 23 | 7:00PM | Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service Mellingers, Pastor Scott Preaching |

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | |
|-------------|---------|--|
| December 4 | 10:15AM | Hanging of the Greens (during Sunday School) |
| December 10 | 2:00PM | Bell Choir Concert, Reinholds Chapel |
| December 11 | 8:30AM | Worship, Congregational Meeting Follows |
| December 11 | 7:00PM | Night of Music |
| December 17 | 10:30AM | Wreaths Across America |
| December 18 | 10:15AM | Sunday School Christmas Program |
| | | Refreshments to follow |
| | 7:00PM | Handbell Choir Concert Coleman Chapel, Brickerville |

FREE **FREE** **FREE**
Community Thanksgiving
Day Dinner
 Sponsored By
 Local Churches & Businesses
Date - November 24, 2022
Our 21st Year of Serving Dinner
Sit Down Meals Served - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
NO DELIVERIES THIS YEAR
NO RESERVATIONS NECESSARY
Ephrata Business Center
(Former Gerber Building)
 400 W. Main Street, Ephrata
 Call Barry or Carol Haller at 717-336-2512
Day of Dinner Only - Call 717-721-5613
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
is handicapped accessible OR
*Join people in these communities for a tasty Thanksgiving Day meal
 and good conversation for a spiritually uplifting day.
 Plenty to eat and lots of great tasting desserts to choose from!*
FREE **FREE**

DAILY READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>Monday, November 21</i> | Psalm 24; Jeremiah 46:18-28; Revelation 21:5-27 |
| <i>Tuesday, November 22</i> | Psalm 24; Isaiah 33:17-22; Revelation 22:8-21 |
| <i>Wednesday, November 23</i> | Psalm 24; Isaiah 60:8-16; Luke 1:1-4 |
| <i>Thursday, November 24</i> | Psalm 122; Daniel 9:15-19; James 4:1-10 |
| <i>Friday, November 25</i> | Psalm 122; Genesis 6:1-10; Hebrews 11:1-7 |
| <i>Saturday, November 26</i> | Psalm 122; Genesis 6:11-22; Matthew 24:1-22 |

UPCOMING SUNDAY READINGS

Sunday, November 27, First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44

GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 20, 2022

CHRIST THE KING

The Cross as Hinge

We end the church year in an unconventional fashion: at the cross. Today's gospel seems a strange capstone to the liturgical calendar, and that is intentional. This is because Christ the King Sunday is not a capstone at all, but rather a hinge that opens into the new year. We end at the cross because that is where we see most fully the great, culminating example of where God is willing to go to show love for humanity. We end at the cross because in the crucifixion we see Christ's enthronement as the one that nothing, not even death, can destroy.

Christ's kingship lies not in his exultation in glory but in his being raised upon the instrument of death from which God causes life to spring. The cross of Christ is the tree of life. But this life is hidden in what appears to be anything but life. Christ is not king because he conquers all in self-preserving might and force but because he conquers all in self-giving grace, and in doing so, he proves that he cannot be conquered even by violence.

Now we stand ready to step again onto Advent soil, where new life, hope, and possibility are germinating. We must remember, as we prepare to hear once again in the story of Jesus' birth and life, that God's glory is not found in power and might but in humility and sacrifice, in one willing to give his life for his friends, his enemies, and the criminal hanging beside him. That is the kingdom of God: that place where the friend, the enemy, and even the one rightly condemned receive the grace and forgiveness of Christ. For that, we praise Christ as king!

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church

275 Swamp Church Road, Reinholds, PA 17569

717-336-2849

www.swamplutheran.org

secretary@swamplutheran.org

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 12:00 noon

The Rev. Scott V. Brubaker, Pastor

Cell: 717-598-4663 Email: pastor@swamplutheran.org

Sue Kreitz, Organist/Choir Director – 717-336-3272

Doug Kulp, Bell Choir Director – 717-336-7798

John Frantz, Sexton – 717-606-8994

Lori Gockley, Council President – 717-733-1095

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00AM & 9:00AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM

SWAMPLUTHERAN CHURCH
275 Swamp Church Road
Reinholds, PA 17569