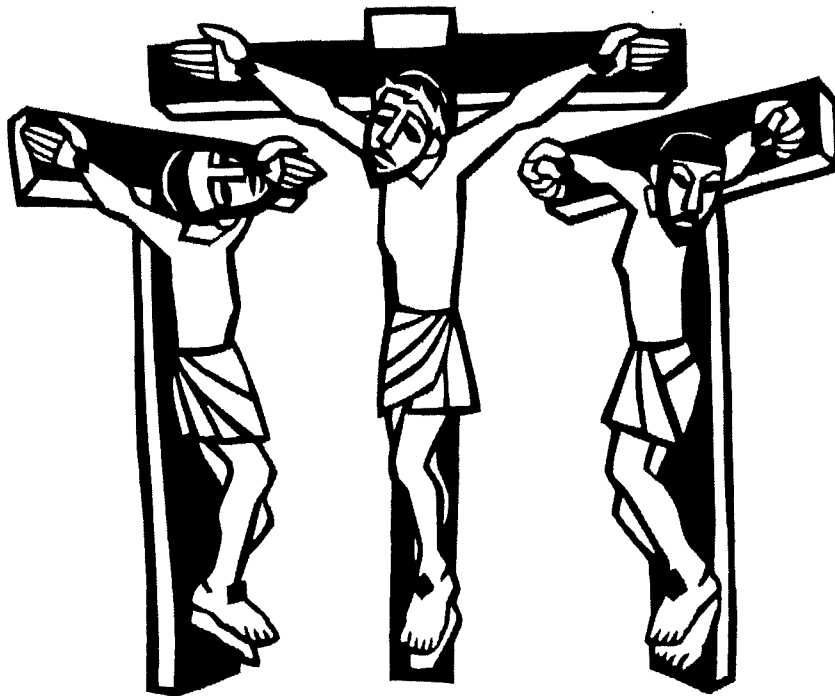


Christ the King Sunday

November 23rd, 2025 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +

2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034

Office: 610-865-4144

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist

WELCOME

() Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music, Welcome & Announcements

***Opening Litany** (by James E. Janeczek)

P: We have sinned against both Shepherd and flock, even at times not knowing that we were blocking the work of divine love.

C: **Forgive us, our Lord, for driving others away from the land of justice and safety.**

P: Forgive us, our King, for not attending to the needs of others.

C: **Forgive us, our Shepherd, for not bringing back to the fold those who are fearful and have gone missing from community.**

P: Like the bandits who were crucified next to Jesus, we too are forgiven — no matter how much we may have scoffed at the Shepherd's love, no matter that sometimes we may not have known what we were doing.

C: **The gates of Paradise have been unlocked; we are free to enter where the Shepherd reigns forever and ever. Thanks be to God!**

***Opening Hymn #634**

"All Hail the Power ..."

***The Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: 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

P: 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.**

The 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.

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ² Therefore 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. ³ Then 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. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. ⁵ The 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. ⁶ In 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."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 46 (selective verses, read responsively)

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

—————→

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks
the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be
exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

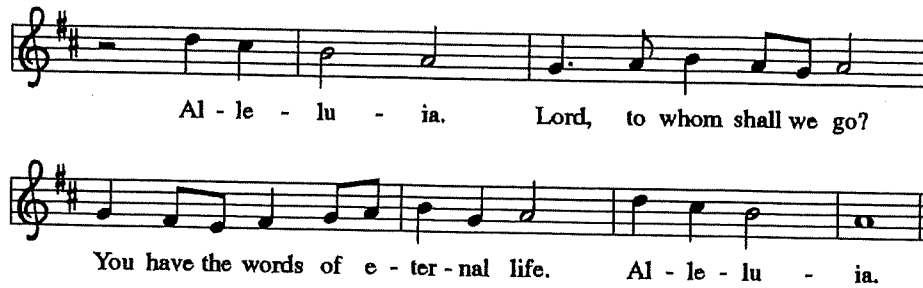
The Second Reading ~ Colossians 1: 11-20

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.

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for 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. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He 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. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and 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 .

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***The Gospel Acclamation** (sung by all)



*The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 23: 33-43

The Holy Gospel according to the 23rd chapter of St. 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.

³³ When 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. ³⁵ And 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!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

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

Sermon

***Hymn #838**

“Beautiful Savior”

***The Apostles’ Creed** (professed together)

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

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.

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.

***Prayer of the Church**

After each prayer petition, please respond:

Hear us, O God ... **Your mercy is great.**

Anthem

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

The Blessing of the Communion Elements

The Lord’s Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)



+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

Communion will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the wafer will be dipped in the chalice so that both elements are received together.

Post Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: God of field and flower, wheat and grape, You have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ’s name. Amen.

P: The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn #855 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

*The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

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*thank
you*

... to Alicia Baird for serving as our lector

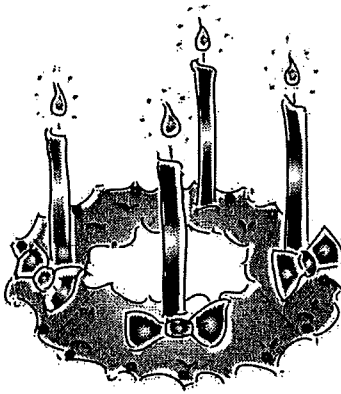
... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech



The altar flowers have been sponsored
by Nancy Filler in memory of Francis
whose Birthday November 22nd.



To be remembered in prayer ... Richard Eisenhart,
Hope Geary, Jeanne Logan, Steve Schoepple,
Barb Shaneberger, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell
Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, people living in war-torn
countries, victims of oppression, injustice, vio-
lence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones
whom we name before God. †



The congregation of New Jerusalem Lutheran (3233 Apples Church Rd., Bethlehem) cordially invites the members and friends of Friedens to participate in an Advent wreath building workshop, skit, and meal this Saturday, November 29th at 4:30pm.

Please let Pastor Lisa know if you are interested in attending!



Thanks

Many thanks to everyone who provided holiday gifts for the residents of the Good Shepherd Home as well as for the Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering.

Your kindness is a true blessing!