

## **25th Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, November 22, 2020 Christ the King Sunday**

Please use the bulletin below to guide you through the service. For those using a computer/smart phone with video on Zoom, you will be led through the service with Power Point.

\*Congregation members may be muted at times during the service as needed to maintain audio quality.

### **God Spots and announcements:**

#### **Announcements**

-The Constitution has been under review and corrections have been noted. This will be sent to your home soon. Our committee has spent a lot of time and effort on this project. Please review and note any changes or questions for the committee at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January.

-A drive through, live nativity will be held once again this year on Dec. 6 at the church. Volunteers are needed. Please contact the church at (908) 454-2864 or strawchurch@gmail.com.

-The yearly offering statements will be ready for pickup at the communion service on January 24.

-Drive-thru/in-person communion will be held on this Sunday, November 22 following church. Please wear masks and maintain social distancing when receiving communion.

-We realize a lot of changes are being made concerning church. However, expenses continue for our church. Benevolence is one not only for us, but helps to support others in their work. A locking mail box has been installed for your convenience to drop off envelopes during this time. Please continue to give.

-Grocery shoppers have offered to pick up any needed groceries for those unable to get out. Please call the church at (908) 454-2864 and your call will be returned.

-The Covid Outreach Committee is planning donations for hygiene kits and groceries. Please help us do God's work by donating. Hygiene supplies or groceries can be left on the main porch in bags. Monetary donations can be put in a marked envelope for "Covid 19 donation" and mail to the church or put in our new locked mailbox at the church.

Thank you.

-Due to continued concern of Covid 19 it has been decided that we will continue with church services on Zoom and dial-in as shown below.

Zoom Dial-In Number and Code: Call: 1-646-558-8656

When asked, use access code: 908-454-2864

No Participant Code.

Password: 1750

Reminder for those using video on Zoom: Be mindful you are on camera

## **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen**

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. Most merciful God,

**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**

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.

**Amen**

**HYMN**

**SATURDAY**

## The Thirsty Fields Drink In the Rain



1 The thirst - y fields drink in the rain, the earth re -  
 2 The nurs - ing babe cries out for milk, the lit - tle  
 3 The dark - ness yearns for dawn to break, the flow - er  
 4 The pris - 'ner longs to be set free, the fa - ther  
 5 We wait for you, O God, our rock, we seek your



ceives the sow - er's seed and cov - ers it. So,  
 bird takes up a seed so she might live. So,  
 o - pens up its bud to face the sun. So,  
 runs to greet his son with o - pen arms. So,  
 light, your word, the truth we need to live. So,



Lord, we re - ceive your ho - ly Word.  
 Lord, we re - ceive your ho - ly Word.  
 Lord, we re - ceive your ho - ly Word.  
 Lord, we re - ceive your ho - ly Word.  
 Lord, send us now your ho - ly Word.

Text: Britt G. Hallqvist, 1914–1997; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943  
 Music: CONVIVIO, Mark Sedio, b. 1954

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**SUNDAY**

## All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
2 Crown him, you mar - tyrs of our God, who from his al - tar call;  
3 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,  
4 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod 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.



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The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.

### **GREETING (ELW p. 266)**

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.**

### **KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . .

**Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

### **FIRST LESSON**

*Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.*

### **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 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. 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. 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 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. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And 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 95:1-7a**

Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, and kneel before the LORD our Maker.**

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

### **SECOND LESSON**

*In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 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, 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 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, 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, Word of life

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL**

*Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.*

The Holy Gospel according to *Matthew 25: 31-46*

Jesus said to the disciples: "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. 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, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 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; 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, 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.' 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? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 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 you did it to me.' 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; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 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.' 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?' 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.' 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**

**HYMN (SUNDAY ONLY)**

## Crown Him with Many Crowns



- 1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
- 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
 whose arm those crim-son tro-phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

5 Crown him the Lord of peace,  
 whose pow'r a scepter sways  
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
 absorbed in prayer and praise.  
 His reign shall know no end,  
 and round his pierced feet  
 fair flow'rs of paradise extend  
 their fragrance ever sweet.

6 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.

## **APOSTLES' CREED (LBW p. 84)**

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 into hell. 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.

## **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Restore our capacity to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick.

This week we pray for: Amy, Aaron, Tracy, Lynn, Nancy, Jack, and Leigh. Also keep the Durnin family in your prayers. We pray for our homebound: Betty, Naomi, Helen, Janet, Elsie and Edna. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us.

Hear us,

O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Pastor*

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Direct us O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING (SUNDAY ONLY)**

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.

### **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, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Pastor

The Lord Bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**Amen**

### **HYMN (SATURDAY)**

## My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



- 1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
- 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
- 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune  
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### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**We will. Thanks be to God.**