

Bulletin for Sunday, November 21, 2021 For Distribution – Christ the King

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Readings

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

⁹As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Word of God, word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 93

¹ The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed, he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved; ²**your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.** ³The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. ⁴**More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves^[a] of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord!**

⁵Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.

Revelation 1:4b-8

^{4b}Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from

Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God, word of Life! **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel: John 18:33-37

The Holy Gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³³Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Today is Christ the King Sunday and we focus on Christ being King of creation, king over the heavens and the earth, king and ruler over your life and mine. During the past few years, I have come to love the words to a new contemporary praise song. The words go like this: Lord of all creation, of water earth and sky, the heavens are your tabernacle, glory to the lord on high God of wonders beyond our galaxy you are holy, holy. The universe declares your majesty you are holy, holy. Lord of heaven and earth Today’s sermon is in the form of three stories, three biographies, three sagas that reveal how Christ has ruled over three lives. His name was Sam Ratigliano, and he was going to give a speech to a crowd of Lutheran young adults at a Quake in Minneapolis. Sam was a football coach in the National Football League, a Lutheran layman, and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Those listening assumed it was going to be one of those “jock for

Jesus” banquet speeches in which they would be told how Jesus helped him win so many victories, how Christ provided the inspiration for the big moments in the big game, how Christ provided the spiritual path to a successful football career. They had a cynical attitude and one or two were humming the favorite football hymn, “Drop kick me Jesus through the goal posts of life.” just before he spoke Surprisingly they found themselves engaged by the man. Maybe it was his New York accent. Maybe it was his Bronx twang. Maybe it was his no-nonsense way of speaking. But he was captivating as he spoke. And he told this story: He and his wife were driving one evening with their two year old daughter in the back seat. Suddenly a car was upon them; there was an accident; their car rolled over; the child was thrown out; and when everything had stopped moving; their little girl was pinned underneath the car. And ...and ...and...and I thought, here we go again, with one of those “jock for Jesus” stories..... He would tell how, “I found enormous strength in myself, picked up the back bumper of the car one inch, just enough for my wife to get her safely out.” Or he would explain, “Suddenly, miraculously, a tow truck came driving by at that very instant; latched onto our car; lifted it up; and we pulled her safely out.” Or he would tell them, “The ambulance arrived, so did a tow truck. She was taken to the hospital; we prayed for months; and she finally was healed.” But instead, he simply said: “She was dead.” ... He then went on to tell that the two of them grieved so deeply for so long. It was an awful time for them, one of the most difficult moments in their marriage. Time went on, and they got pregnant again, finally, an answer to prayer, and that baby was about to be delivered ... stillborn. It was too much for them to take, too much to handle, too much to grieve. As time went by, Sam started to negotiate with God, “God, if you bless us with another pregnancy, we will give our lives to you and dedicate the child to you. If you give us a healthy child, we will be yours and do what you want us to do with our lives. If you...If you.” And a quiet voice spoke back to Sam’s inner spirit: “No deals, Sam. No deals. No manipulations. I rule over you in all times of your life.” So at the quake, and Sam went on to say: “God has called me to be his servant in my turf, the NFL. He rules over all aspects of my life, when winning or losing, in triumphs and tragedies. How about you? Where is your turf? Does God rule you there in your turf, in your situation? Not just when you’re winning, but when you are losing. Not just during the triumphs but during the tragedies of your life? Does God rule you then?” ... There was silence, a profound silence, echoing the silence. No, this was no “jock for Jesus” speech. ... Does God rule in our losing? In our tragedies? Lord of all creation, of water earth and sky, the heavens are

your tabernacle, glory to the lord on high God of wonders beyond our galaxy you are holy, holy. The universe declares your majesty you are holy, holy. Lord of heaven and earth

The second story is about Dietrich Offeldt. This is a story from right after World War II and the separation of East and West Berlin. It was that moment in history just when the division of East and West was becoming painfully apparent. All his friends counseled him: "Dietrich, flee to West Berlin. It will be better for you, better for your family, better for your freedom, a better place to be a Christian. Don't remain in East Berlin. It is family suicide, spiritual suicide." But Dietrich was one of the many thousands who chose to remain and live as a Christian under communism. He wrote in one of his letters: "Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. He is the ruler of my life, and he can dispose of my life in any way he chooses. I have found that every Christian finds himself or herself in a particular circumstance, a particular time, a particular place in which they live out their discipleship. My circumstance is communism; my time is the Cold War; and my place is East Berlin. I chose to be a disciple here. To survive, I found that I needed to make two decisions: first, to accept the task that God had placed before me; that is, to live as a Christian in a communist state. The easy thing would have been to run away, to run someplace that was less difficult. But an essential key to life is to accept the God-given task that God has placed right in front of you and not run away from it". ... How about you? What is the task or tasks that God has placed in front of you? The challenge? The difficult duty? What is it that you want to run away from and not face? What is it that you want to escape and run away rather than to face it and handle it? These are important questions for your life and mine. Are you taking on the task that God has placed in front of you? ... Dietrich's letter continued: "The second choice is to raise my flag and show my colors, to let those around me know for sure that I am a Christian, that Christ rules my life." Dietrich went on to tell about how some Christian parents in East Germany advised their children to be cautious in revealing that they were Christians and that such children became tense and not free but slaves to the fear of being found out. Dietrich found it much easier to be up front, to show his colors, to let people know he was a Christian. For example, one day his school principal confronted him, "Mr. Offeldt, communism teaches that there is no God, that God is a figment of our imagination." To which Dietrich replied, "God is not the figment of my imagination. God created my imagination and yours." Up front, colors flying high. Dietrich knew that he couldn't teach his beliefs in God at school, but he wanted his principal to know where he stood. ... How about you? Do you fly your colors? Do you let

people around you at work or in your neighborhood or family clearly know that Christ is the ruler of your life, that you are more than just a mere church member and worship attender? Or do you subtly cover it up? Lord of all creation, of water earth and sky, the heavens are your tabernacle, glory to the lord on high God of wonders beyond our galaxy you are holy, holy. The universe declares your majesty you are holy, holy. Lord of heaven and earth

The third story today is about Eric Little. Eric said about himself that God made him to be a Christian and that God made him to run fast. Eric Little was the fastest young boy in his village in Scotland when growing up in the early 1900s. His legs could run faster than all of his buddies. In 1919 and thereabouts, he experienced one of those Wesley revival meetings that were sweeping through Scotland, and he gave his life to Christ in a new and deepened way, and soon he was traveling with a revival tent meeting. The revival crew would pull into a small Scottish town, set up the big tent, and Eric would go into town, challenging all the young men to a race, a hundred meters race and a four hundred. By noon on Saturdays, all the young men of the community were set for races down the main street. Eric would whip up their enthusiasm, then beat them in a race, then invite them to the rally that night. At the rally would tell them about Christians running the race and winning the crown of salvation. His favorite theme was: "Honor God with your life, so God will honor you." He always ended his revival sermons with that theme. Soon, it was 1921, and his friends said: "Eric, we believe you are the fastest man in all of Scotland. You should try for the Olympics." So Eric trained for three years while working for the revival. Sure enough, he won the victory and was to represent Scotland in the 1924 Olympics. He traveled to one of the greatest cities in the world, to Paris, France, with his young Scottish eyes bugged-eyed with awe at the most sophisticated city he had ever seen. ... It was time for the trial heats, and (pause) they were scheduled for Sunday morning. He couldn't run on Sunday morning. That violated his religious principles. That's the way it was in those days. Nobody in his hometown opened their stores for business on Sunday morning. None of his friends played rugby on Sunday morning. That's just the way it was. And he had told everyone at his revival sermons that we are to honor God in all aspects of our life, even when it was not convenient or easy. What was he to do? ... He decided not to run and pressures soon came against him from every direction? "What are you, some religious fanatic? Some legalist? Some religious nut?" Even the Prince of Wales put pressure on him, telling him he needed to run in order to honor his country. He replied to the Prince of Wales: "God my King is greater than the king of England, Wales and

Scotland. To honor God is more important than to honor the king of England.” It was now Sunday morning of the time trials and Eric was not at the trials but inside the great cathedral of Notre Dame with its splendor of spiritual heights and spiritual spaces. He was at Sunday morning worship. The images of the race kept flashing through his mind during the worship service, with muscled bodies lunging forward to cross the finish line first. As he left the cathedral, a friend asked the poignant question: “Any regrets, Eric?” His answer was a classic: “O yes, regrets. But not doubts!” Yes, regrets that he didn’t win the gold in the hundred meters. Regrets that he didn’t taste the thrill of running against the best athletes in the world. Regrets, Yes, regrets. But not doubts. Not doubts that he stood up for what was right. No doubts that he did the honorable thing. No doubts that he did what his heart told him to do. ... And how about you, when you are faced with those complex moral choices in front of you? Are you willing to do what is right, knowing that it may cost you your satisfactions and pleasures? Are you willing to pay the price? Are your God-given principles more important than your pleasures? Are you willing to stand up for what your heart knows is right? These are crucial questions for those people whose lives are ruled by Christ. Lord of all creation, of water earth and sky, the heavens are your tabernacle, glory to the lord on high God of wonders beyond our galaxy you are holy, holy. The universe declares your majesty you are holy, holy. Lord of heaven and earth Today we celebrate Christ the King Sunday. On this special day, we remember that Christ is Lord over the whole creation, the entire universe and all the galaxies. Christ is Lord over this little earth, this lovely planet on which there is life. We remember that Christ rules over our lives ... during triumphs and tragedies, in all circumstances, all times, all places, and during the complex moral decisions that we face day by day. Yes, Christ is... Lord of all creation, of water earth and sky, the heavens are your tabernacle, glory to the lord on high God of wonders beyond our galaxy you are holy, holy. The universe declares your majesty you are holy, holy. Lord of heaven and earth ... Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for preachers, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers who carry your forgiveness and love

to the world. Fill their words and actions with compassion and kindness so that your truth will shine. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the well-being of others, especially ministries in our community. Renew them in their work. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for the friends of our congregation who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering especially Florence, Jason, Edith, Richard, Stanley, Heather, Vince, Aileen, Joan, Mae, Harvey, Kaitlyn, Dorian, Ryan. Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body of Christ. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to be our beginning and our ending. We give thanks for those whose lives have given us a glimpse of Jesus' reign of justice and peace. Empower us to join their witness. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

News & Announcements

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special Prayers: Florence Felske, Jason Godin, Edith Gorr, Richard Hubert, Stanley Kubiseskie, Heather Miller, Vince Rabishaw, Aileen Roesler, Joan

Schimmens, Mae Schizkoske, Harvey Schruder, Kaitlyn Vaillancourt, Dorian Verch, Ryan.

Pastor Scott will be spending this morning with the Sunday School. We thank Pastor Sue for presiding over the service.

A DONATION has been made towards the Organ Restoration Fund by Murray and Sandra Sell in memory of Sandra's parents Herb and Edith Behnke who died on November 19th, 1961. *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long."* Psalm 23:6

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A reminder to everyone that we will be holding a congregational meeting today immediately following the worship service to discuss the selling of our rental property on Miller Street. Please plan to attend this important meeting. Susan Dupuis Church Council Chairperson

RETURN TO FULL HOLY COMMUNION

We have returned to full Holy Communion with Bread and Wine. We will only be using the individual cups. The ushers will direct you forward in the middle. Maintain social distancing. Please take one of the individual cups located at the front pews. You will receive the bread from Pastor Scott and the assisting minister will pour the wine. After drinking the wine you can return your empty cup to the side wall at the front and return to your seat. Masks must be worn but obviously moved to consume the bread and wine. Please remember to social distance. Beginning this Sunday, we will once again have 2 stations set up for the distribution of Holy Communion.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that if 100 members increased their weekly offerings by \$2 each Sunday our annual offerings would increase by \$10,000 A \$5 weekly increase would increase our annual offerings by \$25,000. How a small thing can lead to something big! Susan Dupuis

SERVICE BROADCAST ON COGECO

Cogeco Community Channel is now broadcasting Zion's services at 9:00 a.m. and 12:30pm (if it is not on at 12:30, it will be on at 1:30pm) on Sunday mornings a week later.

COFFEE HOUR RETURNS

As you know we have been able to enjoy refreshments and friends again after the service. We have a full supply of coffee but are in need of some sweets. You can donate something you have baked (we can freeze what isn't used right away) or something that you have picked up at the store and would like to share with others. Thanking you in advance for your donations. - Susan Dupuis

MID WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

During the season of Advent there will be midweek evening worship services on Wednesdays. Services begin at 6:30pm and last approximately ½ hour to 45 minutes. The liturgy we will be using is Holden Evening Prayer. Make this part of your advent devotion and preparations.

E-TRANSFER/ALTERNATE DONATION INFORMATION

If you cannot attend our in person worship services, we have set up e-transfer to the church's office e-mail zionoffice@nrtco.net for online donations. If you could also include your church offering envelope number in the message area, it would be greatly appreciated. You can still mail your cheque or arrange to drop off at the office. Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) is another way to give weekly whether you're away or here. Contact the church office at 613-732-8792 for more information for this and updates on service times and requirements.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022

With all the alternate methods of donating to the church (PAR, E-Transfer, mailing of cheques, etc) some of you may wish to continue giving in this way. If you do and no longer wish to receive offering envelopes, please call

the church office before December 1st. Offering envelopes for 2022 will be distributed early in December. Thank you.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours have returned to Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am until 12 noon. If you cannot make it in during these times, please call Jean at the office to see if an alternate time can be arranged to stop by the office.

ST JOSEPH FOOD BANK UPDATE

St. Joseph's food bank could use your help! We are currently serving 80 – 100 families per week. Because of COVID restrictions and closures of places during this time, our donations were very low and our shelves pretty empty. Just some ideas for things we give in their food order.

1. Soup
2. Box of cereal
3. Pasta and Sauce
4. Canned Veggies
5. Juice
6. Peanut Butter
7. Canned Fruit
8. Coffee (instant or perked), Tea Bags
9. Sugar

We also make up school packs for children so they will have something to eat while there. This includes drinking boxes, puddings, granola bags (nut free), tins of flakes ham, snacks like Bear Paws. Also we need Ensure bottles or smaller plastic bottles (no glass) or vitamin bottles for dividing detergent and dishwashing liquid into smaller amounts so that everyone who needs these products will get some. Donations can be deposited in the box at the top of the stairs. Thank you for your support. We appreciate even the smallest donation. God Bless! – Debbie Sitkiewicz

CAMP LUTHERLYN 100 X 100 IN 100 CAMPAIGN

As previewed at the AGM, now that the Comfort Station is complete the team at Camp Lutherlyn is turning its attention to the next Legacy Project.

Hoffman Beach is a beautiful underused area and an important part of the camp's sustainable future. We are looking for 100 people to contribute \$100 in the next 100 days! Help us reach our goal. Your donation can be provided in one of four ways. You will receive a charitable tax receipt for the full amount. As we have been able to weather the pandemic, this year's fundraising campaign will go to Legacy Funds. We look forward to telling members, partners and friends of Camp Lutherlyn more in the months to come. Thank you for your contributions and the Camp Lutherlyn team looks forward to engaging you on future use and programming at Hoffman. - Robert Tremblay, Secretary, Camp Lutherlyn

SPECIAL VISITOR NOVEMBER 28TH – BISHOP MICHAEL PRYSE

The Bishop will be joining us for the first week of Advent.

ORGAN RESTORATION

It is hard to believe that it has already been 4 years since our major organ restoration. At that time, we were informed that the “leathers” would need to be replaced in 5 years. So 2022 is the year for the next phase of this restoration. In 2017, the estimate for this part of the restoration was between \$40,000 and \$45,000. As well, when we had some repairs done by Casavant in mid October, it was noted that some old repairs which were done years ago by another company would have to be repaired again. Since the organ restoration in 2017, it has been decided that we would only be dealing with Casavant who built the organ. We will have a Casavant representative in very early in 2022 to give us an estimate for all the work that needs to be done so we will have an update for costs at that time. We do have some money in the Organ Restoration Fund but we still have a long way to go, so please consider this fund for your Christmas donations.

This Week at Zion – November 22 - 28

Tues	7pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Wed	7pm	Men’s Choir Practice
Thurs	7pm	Mixed Choir Practice
	7pm	Music Healing Vets

Sunday 10am
Michael Pryse

Worship Service with Holy Communion with Bishop