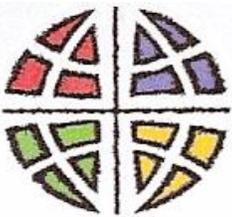




Christ the King
November 21, 2021



SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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P-Presiding Minister

A-Assisting Minister

C-Congregation

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

(Please rise as you are able.)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism as the presiding minister begins:

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

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Have mercy on us, O God.

C: We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

ELW 344

Refrain

*All glory, laud, and honor
to you, redeemer, king,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.*

*You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
our King and Blessed One.*

Refrain

*The company of angels
are praising you on high;
creation and all mortals
in chorus make reply.*

Refrain

*The multitude of pilgrims
with palms before you went;
our praise and prayer and anthems
before you we present.*

Refrain

*To you, before your passion,
they sang their hymns of praise.
To you, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.*

Refrain

*Their praises you accepted;
accept the prayers we bring,
great author of all goodness,
O good and gracious King.*

Refrain

GREETING

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.**

KYRIE

ELW Setting 2, Page 120

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

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

(Please be seated.)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Refrain Only

*I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.*

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

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.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 93

Ever since the world began, your throne has been established. (Ps. 93:2)

¹The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

**²Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;
you are from everlasting.**

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

**⁴Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of
the sea,
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.**

⁵Your testimonies are very sure,
and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4b-8

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

^{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.

^{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.

Word of God, word of life. C: Thanks be to God.

(Please rise as you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 2, Page 124

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

John 18:33-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the eighteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

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 the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

Pastor Carl Ballard

(Please rise as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Have You Thanked the Lord

ELW 829

Refrain

*Have you thanked the Lord?
Have you praised God's name?
Don't you know that no tomorrow is quite the same?
Have you thanked the Lord?
Have you knelt in prayer,
and rejoiced that, rain or sunshine, our God is there?*

*Hallelujah! Thank the Lord for sun, sand, and sea,
ev'ry star at night that shines for you and me.
Blessings so many come our way:
have you thanked the Lord today? **Refrain***

*Hallelujah! Paradise we taste where we are;
summer breezes, winter warmth are never far.
God's love is ever on display:
have you thanked the Lord today? **Refrain***

Hallelujah! Joy and peace the Savior will bring.

*Grace amazing! So we lift our voice and sing,
grateful when clouds are bright or gray:
have you thanked the Lord today? **Refrain***

APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

THE PRAYERS

A: 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)

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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. We pray especially for those serving in our armed forces, *Beth & Ryan, Jonathan, Noah, Irene, and Alex*. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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. We pray especially for those we silently lift before you now. *(a brief moment for those names to be shared in prayer)* Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body of Christ. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

(Ahren, Barb & family, Bev, Charles, Cindy, Deb, Gary, Harrison & Sara, Helen & family, Jon, Judy's family, Kris, Lawton, Lizzy, Lori & family, Lynne & Jim, Marge, Mary, Bev & family, Adam & Shani & Ezra, Steve & family, Stacy & Char)

A: 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.

We especially lift up to you Presiding Bishop Elizabeth, our Synod Bishop Craig, and Pastor Carl. We ask that you be with their respective staffs as they live out their callings to serve.

As we are called to be one, even as Jesus and the Father are one, be with the leaders and the congregation of Lutheran Church of the Savior in Kalamazoo. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

THE MEAL

*The gifts of the bread, wine, and contributions
are brought forward to the altar.*

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY

ELW Setting 2, Page 130

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: 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.

P: 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

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All baptized, communing Christians are invited to celebrate Communion with us. All others are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Communion will be offered a couple of ways. You may either take a communion cup with host as you enter worship and come forward to the rail or take part where you are seated. Or you may come forward and receive Communion directly from the Pastor at the rail.

When approaching the communion rail, come forward down the side aisle; kneel, if you are able, starting at the front of the communion rail (spot closest to the font) on your side and filling in toward the back. After receiving both the bread and the wine, you may return to your seat by the center aisle. If you prefer grape juice, please ask the assisting minister.

*(Please remain standing
as you are able)*

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

*Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.*

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,

*with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. **Refrain***

*Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. **Refrain***

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints.

P: The body of Christ, given for you.

C: **Amen.**

A: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C: **Amen.**

***(When all have returned to their seats, please rise
as you are able, if you are not already standing)***

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

C: **Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. Amen.**

BLESSING

P: God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Crown Him with Many Crowns

ELW 855

*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.*

*Crown him the virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn;
fruit of the mystic rose,
yet of that rose the stem,
the root whence mercy ever flows,
the babe of Bethlehem.*

*Crown him the Lord of love--
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes*

at mysteries so bright.

*Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.*

*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

A: Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Check out our Facebook page, *St. Paul Lutheran Church*.

Pastor Carl's office hours are by appointment.