

Christ the King



### Christ the King Sunday Sunday, November 22, 2020



### **OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027 425-392-4169

#### SERVICE OF THE WORD

#### GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.; Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.

God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.

Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

WELCOME Pastor Jim Kruse

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PM: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sin.

C: Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, know and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PM: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

#### GREETING

PM: 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.

#### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

All Hail the Pow'r of Jesus Name

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792; Music: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall; Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all. Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. O God of power and might,

C: your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

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

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

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

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:15-23

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17 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, 18 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, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 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, 21 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. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>31</sup>"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. <sup>32</sup>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, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>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; <sup>35</sup> 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, 36I 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? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup>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.' <sup>41</sup>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; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>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.' 44Then 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? 45Then 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."

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

We Are All Mixed Up Together

Pastor Jim Kruse

Like many pastors that I know, this method of doing worship by prerecorded video, gives a unique opportunity to spy on the worship ministry of other pastors and congregations. Every week, I check out the video worship of at least two other church. When I first started doing this, I mostly wanted to see how other congregations were using the technology. How were they handling the music? How were they presenting the readings and liturgy? How were they symbolically representing "the ingathering of the saints" each week?

Without realizing it, however, after I became familiar with all of the various presentation techniques that people were using, I started looking past the technology and started listening to the content. More and more, I was tuning in to see what themes they choose to lift up from the readings? What songs did they sing to convey the theme? What was the preacher's take on the lessons in her sermon?

I was particularly interested a week ago, this past Sunday, to listen to the way people dealt with the Gospel lesson. If you remember, Jesus tells a parable about a man who entrusts three of his servants with the assets of his business while he is away on a journey. What would they do with the man's money?

And so I was a bit surprised when both of the pastors I listened to did not talk much about the scripture readings for the day. Instead, their sermons were focused on the results of the national election that was held earlier in the month. You know the details of this election better than you know the details of your neighborhood organizations. We are a country that is deeply divided. Will the winners in the election work to bring us together in some kind of unified way? Or will they work to promote and solidify their own interests and the interests of like-minded people? For the sake of the whole country, will the losers accept the outcome and work to move us forward? Or will they turn their backs on the results and dig in on the

### divided nature of our world?

One of the pastors I listened to, preached about the importance of living with the gift of diversity and the power of working together to honor our differences. The other pastor preached about the need to have the difficult conversations across the divide, so that we can begin to heal the wounds of the election and move forward.

The fact that the details of our national political world is foremost in our minds, the fact that almost everyone you will meet these days is able to enter into an intelligent, in-depth conversation about what is happening and how they feel about it, shows how deeply ingrained we are in the ways of the world we live in.

And yet, at the same time, the fact that we come out of this world and this culture every week, to honor a different way of living in this world, the fact that we work hard to figure out how gather together through these videos and other technologies, is a testament to our belief that there is another way of doing things in our lives.

Today is Christ the King Sunday, sometimes called the Reign of Christ Sunday. A long time ago, long before the social and political systems that give order to our lives were established, the Church decided to set aside the last Sunday of the liturgical year to remember that this other way of doing things will ultimately win the day. And that despite what things look like, the Crucified and Risen Christ of God is in charge.

In the Gospel for today, Jesus tells a story about what it might be like looking back at God's world through the perspective of the very end of all days. It's just a story, a metaphor, to give us some insight into the ultimate intentions of the God who put this world together and keeps it spinning. In the story, the activity of the two worlds we live in is being sorted out by a king sitting on a throne, making a final determination about of how these two worlds have fared. Here, Jesus describes two kinds of people as two kinds of animals, sheep and goats—goats and sheep. And the King, also called the Son of Man, separates them into two camps.

On the one side are the goats. Goats are the people have been busy going about the business of life. These are the people who can speak eloquently about the political positions of our world. These are the people who watch the news on TV and worry about what can be done. These are people who keep their clothing up to date, whose holiday celebrations come in on time and under budget. These are the people who build up our churches and our society, our government, our businesses and our schools.

On the other side are the sheep. Sheep are the people who have been busy taking on the business of God's way of doing things. These are the people who care deeply about the needs of those they love as well as those they know nothing about. The sheep watch out for those who have less, and those for whom daily living is a struggle. The sheep are working quietly behind the scenes, doing what they can to make the world a kindler, gentler place, to leave behind a better world than the one they received.

On the surface, it seems like this story is being told in order to scare us into trying to be sheep instead of goats. And yet, what is most clear from the story is that the goats and sheep are living their lives side by side. They are doing the same work. They are living in the same homes and schools and communities of faith. And most importantly, all the time they are going about living their lives, no one knows which is which, not even and especially, the

sheep.

In our present time and age, the power of our common culture to order our lives and our days lives side by side in our hearts with the power of Christ to direct our futures into God's intentions. The sheep and goats live side by side in each one of us. They are hopelessly intertwined. We are goats. We know too much. We have seen too much. We have foraged through the garbage too often for nourishment that fails us. But we are also the sheep, trusting in God to save us from ourselves and from the brokenness of our lives. And working hard to be God's agents of salvation to a broken world.

This parable is the last one of a string of teachings and parables that come at the end of Jesus' life and ministry. Five Chapters from the Gospel of Matthew, 21 through 25, detail the account of what happened around the temple in Jerusalem after Palm Sunday and before Good Friday and Easter. After Jesus tells this last story, about the separating of the goats and sheep, the plot to do him in is put into play.

The Good News in this parable for "the goats that we are" is that the one who tells this story, tells it just hours before his own goat-ness gets him into ultimate trouble—just hours before he is brought before the most powerful kings and priests and governors of his day—just hours before he is condemned to a torturous death by crucifixion—just hours before he is sent away to the place of eternal punishment reserved for all goats.

With this Christ as our King, we go with the "Goat of all Goats" and come back alive. We live the life of the One who forgives even his crucifiers, the one who reassures those who are dying with him, the one who entrusts his future into the hands of God. We follow the "King of All Goats" into and through the grave to Easter morning where God raises him from death, places a crown on his head, and installs him as the Great Shepherd of all things.

Because this is the one who is King, the parable about the end of all things is read differently. For us who follow God's Christ as our Guide and King, this story is not about where we will end up on the final judgment. We do not and cannot know that. The story itself makes that abundantly clear. Rather, it is a story about how God will make the things right that we got wrong.

For us, it is not a story about separating, as Matthew says, it is a story about gathering, as Ezekiel says. "I will search for my sheep. I will seek the lost and bring back the strayed. I will rescue them on the day of clouds and thick darkness. I will feed them with good pasture. I will bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak. I will feed them justice."

Through our baptism into this life, death and resurrection, and the ultimate reign of Christ over all things, we now live as God's sheep, complete, whole, and without a spot of goat left in us. Under the reign of Christ, we are invited at every twist and turn of life, both the winners and losers of every election and every government of our lives, to acknowledge the work of the God who lifts us up from our troubles. And to recognize God's invitation to participate with God's Shepherd, meeting the needs of others when they cross our paths.

Christ is King! Thanks be to God!

#### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### Now Thank We All Our God

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; Music: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, And keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed, And free us from all harm in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven, the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

#### **OFFERING**

As you consider how your life has been sustained emotionally, physically and financially, during the challenging events of 2020, please take this opportunity to give your gratitude to God through your generous financial support of the ongoing ministries of Our Savior Lutheran Church.

#### OFFERING PRAYER

PM: God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Light.

C: Amen.

#### **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

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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. We pray for those who are hungry, homeless, or in danger. - helping us find sustainable solutions to that seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

God of all people, we lift to you this nation. We pray that we may find a way forward where all people are treasured and supported. Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from ways of injustice. Inspire our leaders in ways that honor each member in our community. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

We pray for those places, people, and animals affected by natural disasters. Grant safety in the midst of chaos and fear; grant strength to those affected as they recover and rebuild. 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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. We pray for all those affected by the surge in COVID-19 infections: comfort the families and friends of those who have died; grant healing for those who are recovering; protect and sustain those providing protection and care; and sustain those who are facing loss of income. Help us all to make wise and careful decisions during this upcoming holiday week.

We also pray for those who are facing ongoing health concerns who have requested prayers from our congregation: Gail, Judy, Jerry, Mary, Ron, Carol, JD, Marlene, Nancy, Doyle and his family, communities across the country, Dave, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie.

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothe the naked, and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

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.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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

### **BLESSING**

PM: The life-giving God, who sets us free in Christ, encourage you with the presence of the Holy Spirit and + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

**POSTLUDE** 

He is King — Robert J. Powell

Jiyoung Lee

## **Commemorations for the Week**

## Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF), Sunday, September 20

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

# Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100, Monday, November 23

Clement was the third bishop of Rome. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul's letters to them. As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.

# Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, died 1927, Monday, November 23

Pro grew up in a time when the Mexican revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the wealthy. He became a Jesuit priest, and worked on behalf of the poor. Falsely accused of throwing a bomb, he was executed, but not before crying out "Long live Christ the King!"

Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; pastors in America, November 24 Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's).

# Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748, Wednesday, November 25

Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

## Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader: Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister: Jen Winslow
Song Leader: Marc Montague

Virtual Choir: OSLC Members and Friends

Videographer:Leslie WaltzerVideo Editor:Dave CarlsonBanner:Elaine StammBulletin Cover:Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: Isaiah 64:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

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# Additional worship resources:

Reading: Psalm 95:1-7a

Suggested Hymn for Listening: Come, Thou Almighty King

## **Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff**

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor* Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator* Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist* 

Scott Hafso (On Leave), Director of Worship & Music Kate Gagnon, Lay Visitation Minister

## ++Share & Prayer-

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at of-

fice@oslcissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Gail comfort and peace following cancer diagnosis. (sister of Sandy Aldworth)

Judy Shaffer comfort and peace of mind. (Sandy Aldworth)

Jerry Nack preparing for upcoming surgery for spinal stenosis. (Kate Gagnon)

Mary healing, wholeness, comfort and a clear sense that God is in control. (Marilyn Carlson) **Ron Gerde** healing for recent medical issues. (Brother to Bob Gerde)

Carol Johnson ongoing medical issues, and mourning the recent loss of her husband & her brothers. (Mary Fricke)

JD Golick diagnosed with stage 3 stomach cancer, completed one cycle of chemotherapy. (nephew to Patty Gerde)

Marlene Pickering discernment in medical decisions to alleviate pain. (Mary Fricke)

Nancy Cumming peace as she awaits an opportunity to move into Timber Ridge. (Mary Fricke)

Nancy Anderson comfort and healing. (Cheryl Neeb)
Washington, Oregon and California Wildfires
peace for those affected. (Marilyn Carlson)

**Doyle Watson** his caregiver and their families, all positive for COVID 19. (Marilyn Carlson)

Safety and peace for communities being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

Dave Carlson continued healing and following kidney transplant surgery.

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)
Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)
Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Henrik & Patty Christopherson (Dianne Tanner); Vern Lindquist; Mike Golick (Patty Gerde); Marian James; Gregory (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); Doug Patur; Katie Moeller; Margot Inman; Ken Acker (son of Lucy Acker); Marilyn Carlson; Taufik Hidayut (Ken Konigsmark); Don Wilkinson (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); Rebecca Thomas; Tanisha Foote (Marilyn Carlson); Dorothy Soland; Randi Strom; Jeanne Kuipers; John Pass; Florence Kinnune; Carol Harbolt; Sandy Aldworth; Jen Winslow; Larry Pruitt.

Undergoing cancer treatment: Les Carlson
(father of Dave Carlson); Harold Mandt (brother of
Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); Chris Howe
(brother of Mark Howe); Peggy Scalise (cousin of
Mark Howe); Eileen Letts (cousin of Mark Howe);
Keith DeCamp (brother of Ken DeCamp); Barbara Jones (mother of Ron Sordahl); Doug McVety
(Helen Nychay); Al Batt (Connie Fletcher); Larry
Harbolt (Ray Harbolt); Gerald Welch (Vern and
Jeannie Lindquist); Christy Williams (Bill
Bergsma); Dana Mancini (Jan Setterlund); Greg
Petersen (Wes Collum); Barry Donker (Joan Parish); Germaine Korum (Lyle and Alice Lewis);
Kathryn Aitcheson (Gerrie Hendrickson); Yuko
Takiguchi (Teiko Soland); Barb (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: Liz Kidd (Bob Beck); Duane Jacobson; Mary Lewis (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); Mark Becker (uncle of Paula Seeger); Barbara Krogh Jarvis (sister of Steve Krogh); Suzanne Lewis (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); Mira Bergsma

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: Tom Wiese (Sandy Aldworth); Talton Johnson (husband of Carol Johnson); Jean Stanley (sister-in-law to Alice Lewis); Delores "Dee" Bakamus (Dar Boni); Marlene Braun (sister to Cheryl Neeb); Nikki (niece to Doug & Dianne Tanner); Richard "Dick" Birdsall (Dianne Tanner); Germaine Korum (Lyle & Alice Lewis); Bob Gray (Doug & Dianne Tanner)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms: Mike special ops, unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Global Missions and Missionaries: For peace in Hong Kong. (Global Missions). Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: Pepe at Las Brisas, Merci in San Antonio and Harold at Las Lomas. MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Tanzania.