

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**Pontiac, IL**

**November 22, 2020**

**Christ the King Sunday**

**Flowers on the altar this morning were donated by Rosemary Sutton in memory of loved ones.**

**We gather to worship, reach out, and serve the Lord.**

**Welcome**

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Whether you have worshipped with us many times, or this is your first time, there is a place for you here. Your presence among us is a gift.

God’s Peace be with you,

Pastor Mathew

Contact Pastor Mathew

Cell: 815-200-9256

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Friday is Pastor Mathew’s day off.

**Introduction to the day**

**Introduction**

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus’ great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

**GATHERING**

### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

in whose image we are made,

who claims us and calls us beloved.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,

We confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

**We forget the least of our siblings.**

**We do not see your beautiful image in one another.**

We are infected by sin

That divides your beloved community.

**Open our hearts to your coming,**

Open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

**Open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God’s children,

and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through ☩ Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us

from the foundation of the world.

**Amen.**

**Greeting**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the

Holy Spirit be with you all**.**

**A: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

O God of power and might, 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.**

**Children’s Message**

**WORD**

**Reading –** **Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24**

L: A reading from Ezekiel.

11Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 12As 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. 13I 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. 14I 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. 15I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16I 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.  
  20Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.  
  23I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

L:Word of God, Word of life.

A**: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Reading- Psalm 95: 1-7a**

L: A reading from Psalm.

1Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
  let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.  
 2**Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving**  
  **and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**  
 3For you, Lord, are a great God,  
  and a great ruler above all gods.  
 4**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;**  
  **the heights of the hills are also yours.**  
 5The sea is yours, for you made it,  
  and your hands have molded the dry land.  
 6**Come, let us worship and bow down,**  
  **let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**  
 7aFor the Lord is our God,  
  and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of God’s hand.

L: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

**Ephesians 1: 15-23**

A reading from Ephesians.

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

L:Word of God, Word of life.

A**: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

**Gospel Acclamation**

(spoken responsively)

L: *Alleluia.* Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**A: Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. *Alleluia.***

**Gospel–Matthew 25: 31-46**

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31“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. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34Then 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; 35for 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.’ 37Then 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? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ 40And 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.’ 41Then 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; 42for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I 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.’ 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

**A: Praise to you, O, Christ.**

**Sermon Deacon Lyn Ahearn**

**Apostle’s Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 Intercession**

Each petition ends “Hear us, O God.” The congregation is invited to respond, **“your mercy is great.”**

**Sharing the Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors by saying or typing, “Peace be with you.”*

*Offerings can be given by mail or online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764. You can give online at* [*http://www.stpaulpontiac.org/*](http://www.stpaulpontiac.org/)

**Special Music “O God beyond all praising”**

**Offering Prayer**

L: God of all goodness,

generations have turned to you,

gathered around your Word,

and shared your abundant blessings.

Number us among them

that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,

and give thanks for your rich blessings,

we may be nourished by you and care for all that you have made,

through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**A: Amen.**

**Litany of Thanksgiving**

L: Salvation belongs to our God

and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

**A: Great and wonderful are your deeds,**

**O God of the universe;**

**just and true are your ways,**

**O Ruler of all the nations.**

L: Who can fail to honor you, Lord,

and sing the glory of your name?

**A:** **Salvation belongs to our God**

**and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

L: For you alone are the Holy One,

and blessed is the one

whose name is the Word of God.

**A: All praise and thanks to you, holy God!**

**Salvation belongs to our God**

**and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

**Lord's Prayer**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

**A: 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.**

**Announcements**

**SENDING**

**Benediction**

L: May the God of all creation,

In whose image we are made,

Who claims us and calls us beloved,

Who strengthens us for service.

Give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,

Sovereign ☩ Savior and Spirit,

Be with you today and always,

**A:** **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

L: Beloved of God,

go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**A:** **Thanks be to God.**

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Thank you to all those who contributed to today’s service: Worship Slides: Julie Mehlberg, Lector:, Ushers: Sara Solberg & Marty Heller.