

# L. Y. N.

## Love Your Neighbor

*Wear a mask, Wash your hands, Respect space!*

## Divine Worship

### Christus Rex

### Christ the King

### SMT Parish

Sunday, November 22, 2020

### 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.

### Welcome

### Prelude

### Thanksgiving for Baptism

***At Home: Use a bowl of water to make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, on the foreheads of one another.***

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

***Water is poured into the font as the pastor gives thanks.***

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into the darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**we give you thanks and praise.**

Indeed, we give you thanks,  
for in the beginning you created us in your image  
and planted us in a well-watered garden.  
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.  
When we did not know the way,  
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.  
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.  
You give us water for the cleansing of our hands so that we may love our  
neighbor as you command.

We praise you for your salvation through water,  
for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere.  
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Apostolic Greeting *II Corinthians***

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!**

**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.**

**Readings and Psalm**

## **First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

*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.*

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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

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

***We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)***

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing | to the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the | Lord with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, Lord, | are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are | also yours. R**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
let us kneel before the | Lord our maker.**

<sup>7a</sup>For the Lord| is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. **R**

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23**

*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.*

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

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Gospel Acclamation *John 6:68***

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.  
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.  
 Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46**

*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  
**Praise to you O Lord.**



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, <sup>36</sup>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.' <sup>37</sup>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? <sup>38</sup>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.' <sup>44</sup>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?' <sup>45</sup>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.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

**Meditation** -Pastor LeCroy

**Hymn**

## Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

## Prayers

### Remember in your prayers and with acts of kindness:

- Pastor **Katrina Foster and Family** at the death of her mother
- **Lazar Jezdemir and family** recovering from Covid 19 (member of NJ Synod Bosnia IST)
- **Amy Ertel, member recovering at home.**
- **Mindy Rostal** and her family at the death of her grandfather Humberto, the family, and friends of **Richard Brode**
- **Brian** and family (Courtney's friends)
- The Family of **Kirtis Goff** (pastor's cousin)
- The family of **Carl Hartman Jr.** (Bert, Cassie, and Lydia)
- **Bill Goffi** (Shelter Church pianist)
- **Dena Calabrese** (friend of Irene Murray)
- **Carol and Donna** (friends of Leslie Neve)
- **Zoia "Charlie" Foster** (Pastor's niece)
- **John Weakland** (Brian Weakland's Father)
- **Dida Hagen** (friend of Mindy Rostal recently diagnosed with lung cancer.
- The family and friends of **Pastor Scott Nessel** at his death (close friend of Pastor Gary)
- **Chris Honda** (friend of Mindy Rostal diagnosed with cancer).
- **Joanne Kraye**, (Joel's cousin).
- **Those in our community lost to Covid19 and the more 255,000 deaths in our country and those who suffer worldwide: Gilberto and Janet Diaz-Granados** (friends of pastor), **Francis Ng** (friend of Dan Stoll) **Charles Powers** (friend of the Meusel family), **Rosa Reyes** (funeral by our parish), **Richard Altomare** (friend of our neighborhood), **Barbara Wolfshorndl** (funeral by our parish), **Dawn Ennis** (sister-in-law of Pamella Pater-Ennis), **Arthur Jusu-Davies** (member) and **Florence Dombrowsky** (funeral by our parish).

On this the last Sunday of the church year, let us pray to see God's reign in the church, in the world, and with all in need, responding to each petition with the words "In mercy, receive our prayers."

*A brief silence.*

Great God, we praise you for sustaining the church through another year of grace. Continue to shepherd your people with your tender care. Sustain the social ministries of the body of Christ, and increase ecumenical sharing of opportunities for ministry.

You are the great and holy God:  
**In mercy, receive our prayers.**

Sustain the world that you have made, the heights of the hills, the seas and the dry land. Guard the animals during the winter months, and direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all. Be a source of strength and refuge for all weathering severe storms.

You are the great and renewing God:  
**In mercy, receive our prayers.**

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages, that your reign may be honored throughout the world. Be with the people of Armenia, Ethiopia, and Hong Kong. Bless the work of the United Nations and of agencies that promote the wellbeing of all peoples.

You are the great and peacemaking God:  
**In mercy, receive our prayers.**

Bring a peaceful conclusion to the American national elections. Bless all the newly elected officials with a love of concord and a desire for justice. Turn us away from historic prejudices, and show us your image in each of our neighbors.

You are the great and reconciling God:  
**In mercy, receive our prayers.**

Visit American homes on Thanksgiving Day. When we are separated from loved ones, embrace us with your care. Keep gatherings safe. Even in our reduced celebrations, give us voices to offer thanks to you for your perpetual blessings.

You are the great and generous God:  
**In mercy, receive our prayers.**

We beg you to end the earth's pandemic. Bring healing to the millions who are suffering from the coronavirus – any who are sick, dying, despairing, isolated, unemployed, and all exhausted medical workers. Guide researchers in developing a vaccine.

You are the great and healing God:  
**In mercy, receive our prayers.**

Show your loving power to all who are in need.

Equip us to feed the hungry,  
to provide clean water for the thirsty,  
to welcome the stranger,  
to clothe the naked,  
to care for the sick,

to visit the prisoners.  
We pray especially for. . . .

*A brief silence.*

You are the great and gracious God:

**In mercy, receive our prayers.**

We appeal to you, Sovereign God, we who are like both the sheep and the goats, and we ask that in compassion you will hear the prayers of our own hearts.

*A longer period of silence.*

You are the great and loving God:

**In mercy, receive our prayers.**

We praise you for all the saints who have died in the faith, especially this week for the hymnwriter Isaac Watts, who gave us words to praise the reign of Christ. At the end of all things, bring us together with all the saints into your kingdom of joy.

You are the great and eternal God:

**In mercy, receive our prayers.**

Receive our prayers, O triune God: Father of glory, Lord Jesus Christ, and Spirit of wisdom, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Jesus, Sovereign of the Cosmos, remember us in your glory and make us bold to pray:

### **Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6, Luke 11***

**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.**

Or

**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.**

## **Announcements**

Check out our newsletter each week for announcements about:

- No Bible Study
- Offering Now

## **Blessing *Romans 8:36-39***

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Love your neighbor as yourself.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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## *Serving Today*

*The Rev. Gary C. LeCroy, D. Min. Pastor*

*Mr. Matthew Hummel, Orgelmeister*

*Mr. Mark Singleton, Cantor*

*Ms. Leslie Neve, Lector*

*Mr. Kenneth Nilsen & Ms. Leslie Neve, Usher*

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

**Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

**Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100**

**Monday, November 23, 2020**

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, 2020**

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 and homeless. Falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a government official, he was executed, but not before crying out "Long live Christ the King!"

**Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America**

**Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

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). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities

and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.

**Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748**  
**Wednesday, November 25, 2020**

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.

**Readings for the Week:**

- **Monday** commemoration of Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100; Miguel Agustin Pro, martyr, died 1927) Psalm 7.
- **Tuesday** (commemoration of Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America) Esther 8:3-17.
- **Wednesday** (commemoration of Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748) John 5:19-40.
- **Thursday**(Day of Thanksgiving [USA]) Psalm 80:1-7.
- **Friday** 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18.
- **Saturday** Micah 2:1-13.
- **First Sunday of Advent** Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37.

**Daily Prayer Resources** are available, including simple forms of Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer; Responsive Prayer; and prayers for mealtimes and other occasions.

Due to copyright restrictions, we are only able to provide downloadable hymns that are in the public domain. Other suggestions provided above may be found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. To purchase a copy of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* for the home, visit the [Augsburg Fortress website](#) or call 1-800-328-4648. Selected hymns from the forthcoming *All Creation Sings* will be available in *Worship in the Home* as copyright restrictions allow.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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Christ in Judgment 1300 Florence, Italy

<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=47457>