

**Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)**

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*"Equipping Disciples to Make Disciples for Jesus"*

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**LAST SATURDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR**

**Saturday, November 21, 2020 6:00 p.m.**

## As We Gather

Today is the Last Sunday of the Church Year. This Sunday is traditionally filled with themes of Christ's roles as King and Judge. But consider these words from Psalm 95: "We are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand." We are God's chosen sheep. He is our Shepherd. We follow Him as He goes to seek the lost, bring back the stray, and bind up the injured.

### PREPARATION

#### Opening Hymn

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

**LSB #892**

**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.**

**All the world is God's own field,  
Fruit unto His praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord, our God, shall come  
And shall take His harvest home,  
From His field shall in that day  
All offenses purge away,  
Give His angels charge at last  
In the fire the tares to cast,  
But the fruitful ears to store  
In His garner evermore.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come  
To Thy final harvest home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in,**

**Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified,  
In Thy garner to abide:  
Come with all Thine angels, come,  
Raise the glorious harvest home.**

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## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Opening Sentences

*Psalm 95:1–3a, 6–7*

- P** Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;  
**C** **let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**
- P** Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving!  
**C** **For the Lord is a great God.**
- P** Oh come, let us worship and bow down.  
**C** **For He is our God,**
- P** and we are the people of His pasture,  
**C** **and the sheep of His hand.**

## Confession and Absolution

- P** Indeed, our heavenly Father has called us to be His people. He has led us to green pastures and still waters. Yet, there have been times when we have treated our fellow sheep with disdain, when we have wandered away from our Shepherd. But our Good Shepherd does not abandon us, and we confess our sins before Him and one another.

*Silence for reflection*

- P** Heavenly Father,  
**C** **we confess that we have wandered away from You. We confess that we have acted shamefully toward our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might follow You to the green pastures and still waters of everlasting life.**

- P** Our heavenly Father has heard Your confession and sent His only Son, Jesus, to be our Good Shepherd. Jesus searches for each one of His sheep. He brings back those who have strayed. He binds up the injured. He even lays down His life for the sheep. By Christ's death and resurrection, God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen. We are sought by our Shepherd. We are forgiven in Christ.**

## WORD

### Introit

*Psalm 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV*

- P** In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,  
**C** **the home of righteousness.**
- P** O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;  
**C** **let me know how fleeting I am!**
- P** Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,  
**C** **and my lifetime is as nothing before you.**
- P** And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?  
**C** **My hope is in you.**
- P** Deliver me from all my transgressions.  
**C** **Do not make me the scorn of the fool!**
- P** Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!  
**C** **For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
 and to the Holy Spirit;  
 as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P** In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,  
**C** **the home of righteousness.**

### Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.  
 Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom

prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

**Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 (ESV)**

*God will search for His sheep*

<sup>11</sup> “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> And 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 ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares 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, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. ... <sup>20</sup> “Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup> Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup> I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup> And 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 am the LORD; I have spoken.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

**1 Corinthians 15:20–28 (ESV)**

*The last enemy to be destroyed is death*

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup> Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup> For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. <sup>28</sup>

When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Holy Gospel**

**Matthew 25:31–46 (ESV)**

*The separation of the sheep and the goats*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who 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 drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup> “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, 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 no drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, 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.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Apostles’ Creed**

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

**Sermon Hymn**

*Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service*

**LSB #848**

**Lord, whose love through humble service  
Bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken,  
Offered mercy's perfect deed,  
We, Your servants, bring the worship  
Not of voice alone, but heart,  
Consecrating to Your purpose  
Ev'ry gift that You impart.**

**Still Your children wander homeless;  
Still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom;  
Still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion  
Healed the sick and freed the soul,  
Use the love Your Spirit kindles  
Still to save and make us whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision,  
Till Your love's revealing light  
In its height and depth and greatness,  
Dawns upon our quickened sight,  
Making known the needs and burdens  
Your compassion bids us bear,**

**Stirring us to tireless striving,  
Your abundant life to share.**

**Called by worship to Your service,  
Forth in Your dear name we go,  
To the child, the youth, the aged,  
Love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,  
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom  
May Your mercy know and live.**

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**Sermon**

*Fruits of Faith*

**Matthew 25:31-46**

**Offering**

*Offerings may be placed in the basket at the back*

**Prayer of the Church**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

**(Each petition will close with; Lord in Your mercy... and the congregation replies: Hear our prayer. Prayer requests are listed in the *Tidings*)**

**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Benediction**

### **Closing Hymn**

*Love in Christ Is Strong and Living*

**LSB #706**

**Love in Christ is strong and living,  
Binding faithful hearts in one;  
Love in Christ is true and giving.  
May His will in us be done.**

**Love is patient and forbearing,  
Clothed in Christ's humility,  
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,  
Reaching out in charity.**

**Love in Christ abides forever,  
Fainting not when ills attend;  
Love, forgiving and forgiven,  
Shall endure until life's end.**

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