



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

November 22, 2020

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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.

WELCOME

HYMN "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" LSB 791

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell; Come ye before Him and rejoice.
- 2 Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
- 3 O enter then His gates with praise; Approach with joy His courts unto.
Praise, laud, and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do.
- 4 For why? The Lord our God is good: His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood And shall from age to age endure.
- 5 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heav'n and earth adore,
From us and from the angel host Be praise and glory evermore.

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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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” LSB 711

- 1 **Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.**
- 2 **We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.**
- 3 **You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, Early let us turn to You.**
- 4 **Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;
Blessèd Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.**

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SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with You.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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* (God will search for His sheep.)

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As 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. ¹³And 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. ¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares 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, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. ²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I 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 am the LORD; I have spoken.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 15:20–28* (The last enemy to be destroyed is death.)

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

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:31–46* (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.

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then 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. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰And 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.’ ⁴¹“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. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³I 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.’ ⁴⁴Then 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?’ ⁴⁵Then 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.’ ⁴⁶And 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Have No Fear, Little Flock” *LSB 735*

- 1 Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen To give you the Kingdom;
Have no fear, little flock!**
- 2 Have good cheer, little flock; Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you In His love forever;
Have good cheer, little flock!**
- 3 Praise the Lord high above; Praise the Lord high above,
For He stoops down to heal you, Uplift and restore you;
Praise the Lord high above!**
- 4 Thankful hearts raise to God; Thankful hearts raise to God,
For He stays close beside you, In all things works with you;
Thankful hearts raise to God!**

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SERMON

Pastor Clarence Martin

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING and CONNECTION CARDS

MEN'S CHOIR "Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Dear heavenly Father, You promise to seek the lost. We pray for all those who have wandered away from Your Church. We pray that You would strengthen us to reach out to them, to receive them with open arms and open hearts when they return home. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Give ear to our cry.**

P: Lord, You promise to strengthen the weak. Send Your strength and courage to all those who need it, to the aging, the lonely, the tired, and the vulnerable. Protect and defend them from the wolves of this world. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Give ear to our cry.**

P: Lord, You promise to feed Your sheep with good pasture. Raise up faithful servants and shepherds to share the nourishment of Your Word and Sacraments with all Your sheep. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Give ear to our cry.**

P: Lord, You promise to rescue Your flock from all enemies. Guard and keep us from the enemies of sin, death, and Satan. Lead us away from temptation and always closer to the arms of our Good Shepherd. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Give ear to our cry.**

P: Lord, You promise to bind up the injured. Bring Your healing to all those who suffer now through injury, illness, and oppression, [*especially . . .*]. Heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Give ear to our cry.**

P: Lord, by Your Word You have told us that the last enemy to be destroyed is death. As we await the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead, we still grieve and mourn when the enemy of death strikes our friends and family. Be near all those who are mourning the death of loved ones, [*especially . . .*]. Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Give ear to our cry.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise" *LSB 680*

- 1 **Thine the amen Thine the praise**
 Alleluias angels raise
 Thine the everlasting head
 Thine the breaking of the bread
 Thine the glory Thine the story
 Thine the harvest then the cup
 Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

- 2 **Thine the life eternally**
 Thine the promise let there be
 Thine the vision Thine the tree
 All the earth on bended knee
 Gone the nailing gone the railing
 Gone the pleading gone the cry
 Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

- 3 **Thine the truly Thine the yes
Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee
Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing
Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.**
- 4 **Thine the kingdom Thine the prize
Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise
Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story
Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.**
- 5 **Thine the glory in the night
No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree
Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy
Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.**

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You gathered us together once more to share in the joys of this Sacrament, and we pray that You would strengthen us by Your Son's body and blood that as heirs of Your kingdom, we may ever serve You and our neighbors; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*
- C: **Amen.**

HYMN "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" *LSB 924*

- 1 **Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness.**
- 2 **Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found.**

**3 Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.**

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POSTLUDE

Piano – Pam

Vocal - Allen

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