

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

November 22, 2020

10:00 a.m.

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR: THE REIGN OF CHRIST



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.

PRELUDE Prelude on *Kingsfold*

English traditional, arr. Kevin McChesney
prerecorded by Sarah Climis, handbell solo; Karen Sande, piano

WELCOME

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 whom we are rooted
and bound together in beloved community.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy Spirit, Root of Life,
**we confess that we too often draw our hope and strength
from human things.**

**Our roots dry up;
they refuse to hold;
and we fall having failed to be drawn together in love
and in you.**

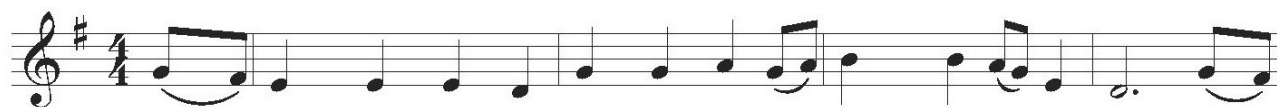
**Reroot us in the soil of your forgiveness
and awaken us to how our lives are intertwined
with one another and the rest of your creation. Amen.**

Beloved of God—in the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven.
Trust that you are deeply rooted together in Christ.
Stand firm on this promise.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN #431 *O Christ, What Can it Mean for Us*

sung to the tune *Kingsfold*



O — Christ, what can it mean for us to — claim you as our king? What
You — came, the im - age of our God, to — heal and to for - give, to —
Though some would make their great-ness felt and lord it ov - er all, you —
You — chose a hum - ble hu - man form and shunned the world's re-nown; you —



ro - yal face have you re - vealed whose praise the church would sing? A -
shed your blood for sin - ners' sake that we might rise and live. To
said the first must be the last and — ser - vice be — our call. O —
died for us up - on a cross with thorns your on - ly crown. But



spir - ing not to glo - ry's height, to — pow - er, — wealth, and fame, you
break the law of death you came, the law of — love to bring: a —
Christ in work-place, church, and home, let — none to — pow - er cling; for
still, be - yond the span of years, our glad ho - san - nas ring, for



walked a diff - 'rent low - ly way, a - noth - er will your aim.
diff - 'rent rule of — right-eous - ness, a — diff - 'rent kind of king.
still, through us, you — come to serve, a — diff - 'rent kind of king.
now at God's right hand you reign, a — diff - 'rent kind of king!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

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

read by Don Streufert

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Ephesians 1:15-23*

read by Mary Streufert

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

Choir: Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our an- | cestor David. *Alleluia*

GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew
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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY #855 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

THE 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 CHURCH

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

or

Bless we the Lord,
Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

GOD EXTENDS AN INVITATION

Daniel Grainger

OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to 218-325-9525 with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

text H. W. Baker tune *St. Columba*, arr. Walter Pelz
prerecorded by the Soli Deo Gloria Choir

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still; thy cross before to guide me.

And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table, 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 feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

The LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything. Deuteronomy 2:7

Today we remember that we root ourselves in You, our boundless God from whom we draw strength and hope. Although our roots may feel shallow, we trust that You hold us firm, and bind us together in beloved community through the Body of Christ.

In this season of harvest, we take bread, giving thanks for the earth's bounty and the work of human hands. We ponder the holy mystery that You, O Giver of Life, produce the soil for our crops and the ground for our very being. As we eat this bread, we pray for all who hunger for food and justice, humbly asking that we and our gifts might become bread for the world. **Amen.**

MUSIC FROM TAIZE *I Am Sure I Shall See*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first system is in 4/4 time. The second system starts with a 2/4 time signature, then changes to 4/4. The third system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots, with the instruction 'Last time' above the vocal line and below the piano line.

I am sure I shall see the good-ness of the Lord in the
land of the liv - ing. Yes, I shall see the
good-ness of our God, hold firm, trust in the Lord.

Last time ☺

Last time ☺

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Nourished by the living God and grounded in this community of faith, we pray:

**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.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

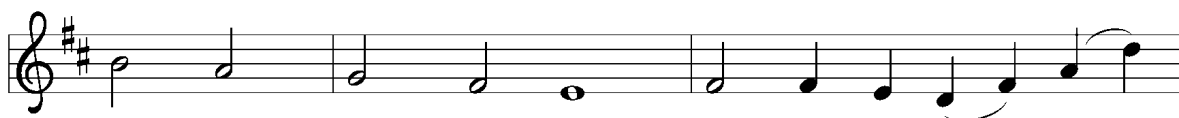
The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #434 *Jesus Shall Reign*



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Jesus Shall Reign*

tune *Duke Street*; setting by Wilbur Held (1914-2015)
Karen Sande, organ

MINISTERS	All People of First Lutheran Church
PASTOR	The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
PASTORAL INTERN	Logan McLean Strike
PROGRAM STAFF	Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate Karen Sande, Director of Music Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
MUSICIANS	Aine Miller, Barb LaMaster, Dave LaMaster, John Sippola, and Michael Fuchs, singers; Sarah Climis, handbells; Soli Deo Gloria Choir with Susanna Ojakangas, flute
VIDEOGRAPHER	Sam Weston
VIDEO EDITOR	Stacie Curnow

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First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.
We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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