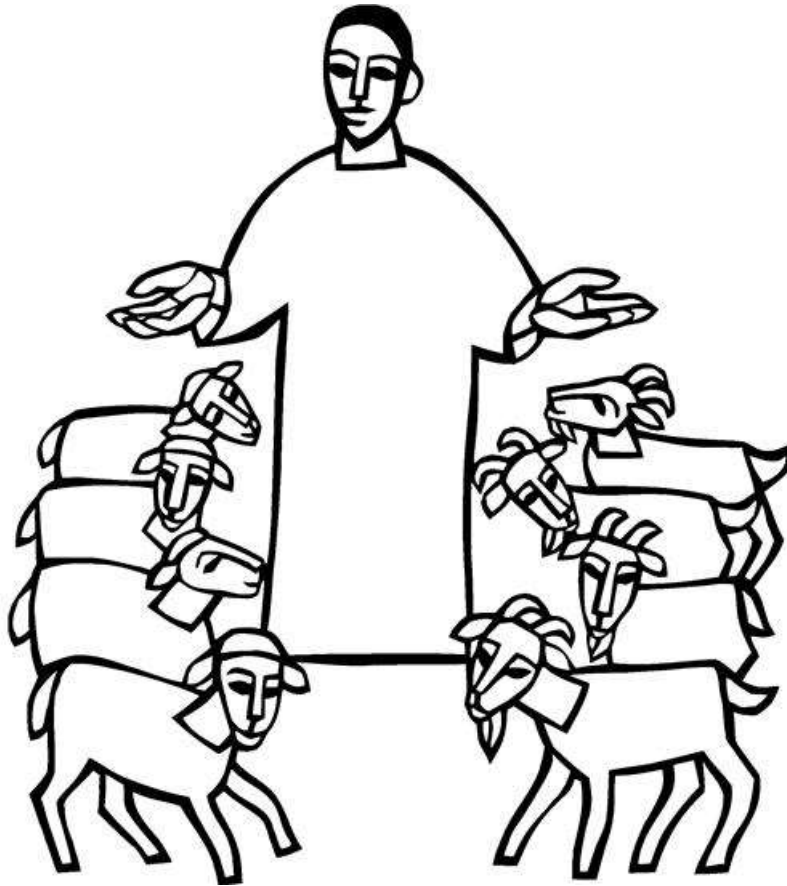


**Christ the King**  
**Sunday, November 22, 2020**



**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**1910 34<sup>th</sup> Ave SE**  
**Albany, Oregon 97322**  
**(541) 926-4875**

Email: [office@goodshepherdalbany.org](mailto:office@goodshepherdalbany.org)

Website: [www.goodshepherdalbany.org](http://www.goodshepherdalbany.org)

**PASTOR: LAURA O'BRIEN**

Welcome to worship on Christ the King Sunday. Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17 ESV). May the Holy Spirit strengthen us for service in the kingdom.



## Gathering

### Prelude

### Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates us and forms us, who redeems us and calls us, who unites us and sends us.

C: **Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

## GATHERING SOLOIST

## PASTORAL GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you**

## **KYRIE BASED ON PSALM 95**

A: Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

**C: Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

A: For you, Lord, are a great God and a great ruler above all gods.

**C: Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

A: In your hands are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

**C: Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

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

L: The First Lesson is from Ezekiel the 34<sup>th</sup> chapter, beginning at the 11<sup>th</sup> verse:

<sup>11</sup>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.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23**

L: The Second Lesson is from Ephesians the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter, beginning at the 15<sup>th</sup> verse:

<sup>15</sup>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.

**L:** The Word of the Lord

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

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C:** **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter, beginning at the 31<sup>st</sup>  
verse:

**C:** **Glory 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.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY – SOLOIST BY

#### APOSTLE’S CREED

A: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C: **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

**A:** Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Hear us, O God.

**C: hear our prayer.**

**A:** You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Hear us, O God.

**C: hear our prayer.**

**A:** Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Restore our capacity to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away..... Hear us, O God.

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Lord God, watch over and care for all persons who serve in the military. Today we especially remember..... Hear us, O God.

**C: hear our prayer.**

**A:** Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people. Hear us, O God.

**C: hear our prayer.**

**A:** Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Hear us, O God.

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**C: Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**P:** Let us greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

The congregation is invited to greet one another with a gesture of peace (bow to one another or use the peace sign. Please no handshakes or hugs and stay in your area, thank you) using these or similar words – *God's peace be with you.*

## **OFFERING**

**Gathering of Offerings**

**Offertory**

**Presentation of our Gifts**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray.....God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

**C:** **Amen**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C:** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

**P:** Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.



Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

## **DISTRIBUTION**

**P:** We welcome you to the Lord's Table to share the Sacrament of Holy Communion with us. Holy Communion is served with individual grape juice and a wafer.

## **COMMUNION**

**C:** **O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;**

**You suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;**

**You set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;**

**Eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

## *PIANO MUSIC*

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**A:** Let us pray..... We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

### **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen**

### **SENDING SOLOIST BY**

### **DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Action and Reflection**

The story of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25 begins with the Son of Man on a throne. It is an image of a king sitting in judgment. In any era of human history, this image of an all-powerful ruler sitting in judgement would be consistent with our images of power and authority. What follows runs against all of our expectations. The king connects his presence to the people who are poor and oppressed. This does not fit our human practices of power. Even a benevolent leader is not seen in the presence of the least among us.

Though Jesus makes this connection, it is easy to read this story and get hooked into the power dynamics of judgment. We may wonder if we are a sheep or a goat and think about this status in an eternal sense as it relates to our relationship with God. This heavy reflection may lead us to think we might somehow have to earn our way into God's grace.

The theology of the cross finds Jesus exercising his kingship through the weakness of the cross. From the resurrection that follows this death, we receive the gift of life. This gift comes with the freedom to leave aside worries about eternity in favor of attending to faithful living today. If Jesus frees us from concern about our relationship with God, the story of the sheep and the goats becomes more of a checklist for grace-filled living than a scorecard for eternity. It becomes an invitation and a guide rather than an indictment.

Included in this invitation is an opportunity for reflection. Neither the sheep nor the goats realize how their actions have or have not been faithful. In this way the story gives us a simple gift by which to measure our path in faith and reflect on the ways we spend our days.