



**Grace Lutheran Church
Hastings, Michigan**

Christ the King Sunday

November 22, 2020

Christ the King is the end of the season for the Christian calendar. Today's color is white representing the purity and glory due Jesus our king. We praise God for our servant king, who stands at the end of time welcoming us into the eternal kingdom of God's reign.

Jesus was not wealthy or famous. Christ did not promise his followers that they would possess riches, power, or prestige. Jesus was named king only in death. He reigned from the cross, leaving his disciples the treasure of his body and blood.

Today we gather as the body of Christ. We wear the crown of baptism and trace his royal sign — the holy cross — over our brows and bodies. We leave here strengthened to serve those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, and imprisoned.

Announcements

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Gathering Music

Greeting

☞ As the earth shows signs of seasons end, let us experience the life and peace we share in the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer .

☞ **Amen**



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, 1



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 all will know my name. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*

Refrain



Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I

To stanza 3 and 4



love you and you are mine."

4 "I

Prayer of the Day

- A** Let us pray.... O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace.
- G** **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.**

First Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

L A reading from **Ezekiel**.

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.

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.

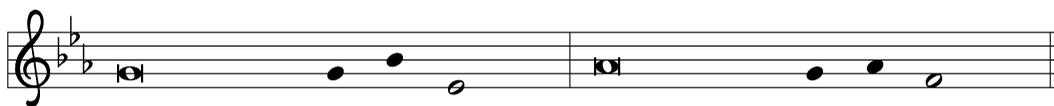
L The Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

☐ = Refrain



We are the peo-ple of God's pas-ture and the sheep of God's hand.



Psalm 95:1-7a

¹Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours. ☐**

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

⁶**Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**

^{7a}For the LORD | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. ☐

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.

📖 A reading from **Ephesians**:

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



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word. Take your truth, plant it
of your plans for us. Truths un - changed from the



deep in us; shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness—
down of time that will ech - o down through e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by



acts of love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
faith we'll walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your
church is built, and the earth is filled with your



glo - ry.

Gospel Reading

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**.

☞ **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.**

Children’s Time

Message

Silence for reflection



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Apostles Creed

A We confess our faith as one body in Christ Jesus:

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

*After each petition, the Assisting Minister will end Hear us, O God. The people will speak, **Your mercy is great**.... as the prayer response.*

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.

A brief silence

A 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. Show strength and wisdom to our church leaders, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David and Roseanne, our synod companion Lebanon Lutheran Church, Whitehall; Kilpatrick United Brethren, Woodland; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

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 **Your mercy is great.**

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. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including: *Parker Stancil (Freedlunds), Cody and Myrina Crawford (Clements), Austin and Aaron Endsley, Alexis and Carlos Garcia (Burdicks), Brandon and Stevi Kay Miller (McManaway), Brady and Cynthia Rudesill (Hansen), Joel Taggart (Varkulas), Kayla and Lance Champaco (Pohls), and Julia Ehredt (Schrieners, Halsteads)*. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A 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. Bring comfort to those in need, including *Walter Brown, Gary Burdick, Penny Burdick, Joyce Domire, Kim Domke, Mike Fruth, Karl Golnek, Lisa Golnek, Don Granzow, Delmar Hansen, Jerry Hansen, Larry Hansen, Lee Hoppe, Joe Longcor, Carol Morgan, Ron Neil, Hope Peck, Nancy Porter, Vicky Saucier, Michael Stiffer, Mike Shoemaker, Tim Sullivan, George Ulrich Jr., Jeanette Ulrich, Traci Wales, Kristi Winick, Emily and Eve Wright*. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

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. (*You may share your prayers at this time*)

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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 **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

Offering of Gifts and Music

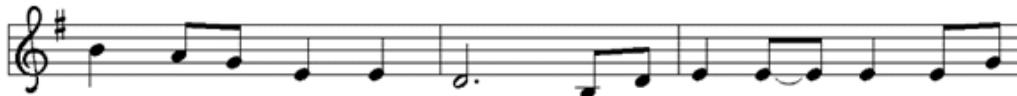
Offering Song

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a



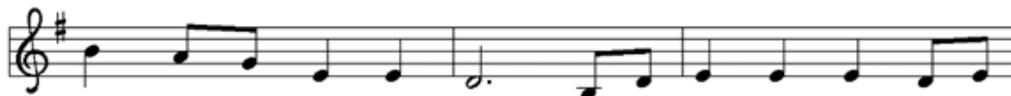
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
The hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Offering Prayer

- Ⓐ Let us pray . . . 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.**

Sharing the Peace

- Ⓐ The peace of Christ be with you always.
- ☒ **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

- Ⓐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- ☒ **Our Father in heaven, holy 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.**

Mission Minutes

Blessing

- Ⓐ May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of the holy Trinity, † one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.
- ☒ **Amen.**



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!

Dismissal

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

Ⓑ 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.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 2020

Stewardship Information

Attendance: 19 Views: 180 Weekly Giving: \$1,346.00 Budget Amount: \$4,227.24

Grace Lutheran Church has suspended onsite worship. Please join us for **Sunday virtual worship** at www.grace-hastings.org. We invite you to also for **Advent virtual Worship** on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm beginning on December 2, 2020, which will also be found on the Grace website. We hope that you are being blessed by our worship of God each week. The council will vote at a future date to reimplement onsite worship.

COMMUNION OF TWO KINDS is available thanks to a donation of grape juice (wine was not available) from Joe Longcor and Vickey. Please call the church office (269.945.9414) or Pastor Ken directly to set up a time.

Adult Forum continues a study on the book of **Acts** Sundays at 10:00 am. Since there are fewer than 10 people who attend, we will continue to meet in the Gathering Area for the study.

God's Creation Calendars NIV 2021 are now for sale! They are on display on a table and can be picked up when the office is open or on Sunday mornings between 10:00 am and 12 noon. Fifty available at \$5.00 each – these make great Christmas gifts!

We need your plastic shopping bags! Grace is beginning a new ministry for the homeless. We are collecting shopping bags and a group is weaving them into mats. Please place your clean plastic shopping bags into a box marked shopping bags in the coat closet near the entrance and the office. Thanks for your ministry to those who can use these mats.

Mask Chains Take time to look at the chain necklaces that Erin Everly is making! The proceeds will go toward the parking lot project. Chains will be available and displayed on the Coffee Bar from November 29 — December 20 and will sell for \$8.00 each. They are colorfully beaded chains that will clamp on to your face mask to be used as you would for eyeglasses. They can also double as necklaces when we are done with our “mask era”.



The Advent devotional PRAYING THE JESSE TREE is available on the table in the Gathering Area. Compliments of the Outreach Committee.

When you are in the building, we ask you to wear a mask. To help keep the larger community safe, we also ask that you maintain at least a 6-foot distance from those who are not part of your household. **Thank you for loving your neighbor.**

Assisting Minister – Chris Bush

Lector – Carla Neil

Cantor – Ken Scheck

Musicians – Vickey Argo, Chris Bush, Kim Domke, Carla Neil, Cindy Olson, Clyde Watson, Kate Watson, Lexie Watson

Pastor – Ken Scheck