



**CHRIST**  
*the King*  
**SUNDAY**

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**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran – Nov. 22, 2020**

120 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8am-12pm, 1-5pm

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Listen live on WYNT 95.9 FM or on demand at [www.stpaulupper.org](http://www.stpaulupper.org)

# + GATHERING +

PRELUDE

SPECIAL MUSIC by Ben Schneider

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, **we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, and open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ☩ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: "*Crown Him with Many Crowns*" (cantors)

- 1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him  
as thy matchless king through all eternity.
- 2 Crown him the virgin's Son, the God incarnate born, whose  
arm those crimson trophies won which now his brow adorn;  
fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem, the root  
whence mercy ever flows, the babe of Bethlehem.
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love--behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified. No angels in  
the sky can fully bear that sight, but downward bend their  
burning eyes at mysteries so bright.

4 Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save. His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high, who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

5 Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time, creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime. All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

## 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.**

## KYRIE & CANTICLE OF PRAISE (sung by cantors)

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

## SPECIAL MUSIC by Reid Barth

# + WORD +

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

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 95:1-7a

<sup>1</sup>O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**<sup>2</sup>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

**<sup>6</sup>O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, **and the sheep of his hand.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (cantors)

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

...This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Barry Halter, Jr.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*" (cantors)

1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all. Bring  
forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.

2 O seed of Israel's chosen race now ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.

3 Hail him, you heirs of David's line, whom David Lord did call  
the God incarnate, man divine and crown him Lord of all.  
The God Incarnate, man divine and crown him Lord of all.

4 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget the wormwood and the  
gall, go spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of  
all. Go spread your trophies at his feet and crown him Lord of  
all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball to him  
all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.

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 INTERCESSION

*Following each petition: ...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

SHARING OF THE PEACE AT HOME

## **+ THANKSGIVING +**

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (cantors)

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

## **+ SENDING +**

SENDING/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 God, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: "*Soon and Very Soon*"(cantors)

- 1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon, we are going' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!
- 2 No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!
- 3 No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, no more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!
- 4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King, soon and very soon, we are going' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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**REMINDER:** We have suspended in-person worship through December 6<sup>th</sup>. This also means the building is closed to any activities or meetings. During this time, we will still broadcast a worship service on WYNT 95.9FM on Sundays at 10am along with a shortened Facebook video worship service. While staying safe at home, take some time to listen and reflect on these services, catch up on your study of the Bible and prayer time, and reach out by phone to your church family and your loved ones. These are difficult times for us all and we pray for your mental and physical health and safety!

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** the family and friends of Jackie Graeser, Shannyn Swinehart, Paul Baum, Joyce Koehler, Jim Pfeifer, Mary Orwick, Tim & Karen Koehler, John Foster, Pastor John Kerr, all first responders and frontline workers, Wyandot Cares

**OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY** is extended to the family and friends of Jackie Graeser who was called into the arms of the Lord this past Thursday. Please keep her family in your prayers.

**MEMBERS OF ST. PAUL,** we thank you for your cards sent to us during the recent death of Loretta G. Bargaheiser, sister and sister-in-law of Marjorie & Wayne Koehler. Many ups and downs have filled ones lives this year of 2020. We all are saying prayers to our Lord Jesus every day. ~Wayne & Marjorie Koehler

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING** has been cancelled. Hopefully at a later date we can do more.

**BOOKS & BARRY** is on hold until we resume in-person worship.

**A SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING** will take place immediately following worship on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this meeting is to vote to approve the 2021 budget and elect council members. If you would like your name to be on the ballot, please contact the office before the end of business on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

**THE CHRISTIAN FOOD CENTER** is looking for a few more volunteers to help on Wednesdays and/or Thursdays. It would be for 2½ hours and would not have to be every week, hopefully just once a month if we get enough people. Please contact Beth Collins, Lisa Kelly or Robbi Sigler if you have any questions or would like to volunteer. Thanks in advance!

**HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE AGE KIDS:** PB&J will not take place this week because Upper High School is doing remote learning. This will resume when school goes back to in-person learning.

**THE MISSION OUTREACH** line on your offering envelope for November will go to fees associated with our chartering of the Cub Scout group.

**CHRISTIAN FOOD CENTER:** We are collecting toiletries during November. Please put your donations on the table in the vestibule.

## **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.