

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

November 25 & 26, 2023



Peace
Lutheran Church
NEENAH, WISCONSIN—LCMS

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AS WE GATHER

Too often we think about God's being up in His heaven, looking down on us. Today's Readings give us the correct perspective. Through Ezekiel, God announces that He is the One who will provide pasture for His people and that He will send them David to be their king. In the Psalm, we reflect that God is our maker. Christ is not only the first to rise from death, Paul explains in the Epistle; He is also the foremost, the One to subject all things under Him. And so His decisions when judging on the Last Day cannot be questioned. First and foremost, then, today is a day to let God's Word give us a correct perspective. This last Sunday of the Church Year is an opportunity to "make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise" (Psalm 95:2).

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

GREETING

P: Peace be with you,

C: And also with you.

HYMN "Come, Thou Almighty King"

LSB 905



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy
2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred
△ 4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -
might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -
prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,
might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,
maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.
And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

Text: English, before 1760, alt. Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716–96 Text and tune: Public domain

stand

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Let us confess our unworthiness and ask His grace and mercy.

Through Ezekiel, God said that He would “search for My sheep and will seek them out.”

C: **We confess that we have wandered away as erring sheep, preferring the pleasures of this world rather than the rich pastures You have provided. Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: Paul wrote that “God has put all things in subjection under [Christ’s] feet.”

C: **We confess that we have not always been loyal subjects of our Lord, but have made decisions based on our own thoughts and desires. Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: Jesus foretold that He will judge people about how they treated others—the hungry, strangers, and prisoners.

C: **We confess that we have not always sought to share Your love and meet the needs of the people around us. We cannot change without Your grace, mercy, and strength. Forgive us, O Lord.**

P: Rejoice! The One who comes to judge is the same Jesus who is the one who gave His body and shed His blood for you on the cross. He is the first to rise from death, and by His grace we shall follow Him to His eternal kingdom. 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. Thanks be to God.**

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.

C: 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;

P: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

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.”

E/P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

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.

E/P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31–46

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus said:] "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.

sit

HYMN OF THE DAY “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” LSB 348



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON “Did I Do That?”

Matthew 25:31-46

stand

CREED Apostles’ Creed Tune: LSB 770 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

1. I believe in God, the Father, Maker of the earth and sky;
And His Only Son Christ Jesus, Who responded to man’s cry.
Made true man by God the Spirit, He was born of Mary pure.
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, All the ills of man to cure.
2. Crucified and dead and buried, Off to hell He took away,
But He rose again in vic’try On the morn of Easter Day.
Now gone back once more to heaven, Reigns He on His Father’s right,
Til to judge the dead and living, He shall come in glory bright.
3. I believe in God the Spirit, In one Church here and beyond,
Joining all the saints together, In one fellowship and bond,
I believe in God’s forgiveness, I believe my flesh shall rise,
And I look for life unending, In my home in paradise.

sit

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

stand

OFFERTORY "Praise and Thanksgiving"

LSB 789



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise



liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -



or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.
with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84 Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent. Text: © 1987 Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744
Tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for people here and around the world who are destitute, fearful of God's wrath, shunned by society, unjustly accused, or dealing with issues of health. As You have promised, Lord our God, seek out, we pray, those who, devoid of basic necessities, face today without homes, with few possessions, and an uncertain future.

C: **For the sake of our Good Shepherd, lead them to the food, shelter, and security they desperately need.**

P: With the Gospel in the hearts and on the lips of Christ's Church, heavenly Father, enable our brothers and sisters to answer the spiritual thirst of people here and around the world.

C: **Grant them faith that they may join us in singing praise to You, the rock of our salvation.**

P: Many of the people we see each day are lonely strangers, gracious Lord; but their hopes and fears are known to You.

C: **Increase our faith, Lord Jesus, that we may reach out to them with the news of Your resurrection and the Kingdom You so graciously offer to all. Guide the Church wherever people gather around Your Word for nourishment and strength.**

P: Shower Your blessings, O Holy Spirit, on all whose vocations work for the common good—those who till the soil and tend flocks; those who prepare and distribute food, clothing, and shelter; those who maintain peace at home and abroad; those who are first to respond in

emergencies; and those who treat illnesses of all sorts.

C: Guide them, Lord of all, to use the gifts You have given them, so that praise may resound to You, the Lord, our Maker.

P: Where people are forgotten, unjustly imprisoned, or oppressed in any way, O God, surround them with caring people intent on meeting their physical and spiritual needs.

C: Use us to serve You and love them according to Your gracious plans for us all.

Special Prayers

P: Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy and sent Your only-begotten Son to be our Savior. Gathered in His name we ask You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant that our Lord's body and blood strengthen our faith so that we reflect His love for all people and give Him all the glory. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD (Spoken by the pastor.)

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

PAX DOMINI

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

C: Amen.

sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Just As I Am”

LSB 570



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68 Text and tune: Public domain

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

LSB 620



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

5 Let me praise God's boundless favor, Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call. Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me, Fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation, Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul. God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error, Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–58; tr. David W. Rogner, 1960 Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758 Text: © David W. Rogner. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744 Tune: Public domain

"O God of Mercy, God of Might"

LSB 852



1 O God of mer - cy, God of might, In love and
2 And Thou, who cam'st on earth to die That our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Thou hast taught: To feel for
4 All are re - deemed, both far and wide, Since Thou, O



pit - y in - fi - nite, Teach us, as ev - er
world might live there - by, O hear us; for to
those Thy blood hath bought, That ev - 'ry word and
Lord, for all hast died. Grant us the will and



in Thy sight, To live our lives in Thee.
Thee we cry, In hope, O Lord, to Thee.
deed and thought May work a work for Thee.
grace pro - vide To love them all in Thee!

- 5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care, May we each other's burdens share;
May we, where help is needed, there Give help as unto Thee!
- 6 And may Thy Holy Spirit move All those who live to live in love
Till Thou shalt greet in heav'n above All those who live in Thee.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt. Tune: Samuel Howard, 1710–82 Text and tune: Public domain

stand

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood.

C: Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end;

P: through 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.

C: Amen.

sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN "Mansion Over the Hilltop"

SGBK 53

THE SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Welcome to Peace in the name of the Risen Savior!

We request that visitors register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. We ask that you share your name and address so that we can recognize your visit with us. All members are requested to register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. Members, please indicate all family members present and those who took communion, so that the Pastor and Elders can be spiritually accountable for you and your family.

Are your cell phones turned off? Cell phones are indeed a great convenience in life these days. However, please, out of courtesy, silence cell phones during the worship service. Thank you!

Hearing assist devices and large print bulletins are available for those who may need them. Please see an Usher or the Elder who will be happy to assist you.

A Mother's Room is available for parents of young children if the need arises. The Mother's Room in the west hallway. The worship service is able to be heard in the Mother's Room.



Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Holy Communion. Scripture teaches that Holy Communion is a sacred act, established by Christ Himself and is given to His Church. As members of **The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**, we hold the doctrine of the Real Presence, in with and under; meaning that Jesus gives His Body and Blood with the bread and wine, as He Himself says, *"This is my body... This is my blood... for the forgiveness of sins."* (Matthew 26:26ff)

The Holy Scriptures also teach us to receive this meal in a way that is responsible and healthy. As overseer, St. Paul wrote- *"let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself"* (1 Cor. 11:28-29). Out of genuine care for God's people we ask that those (1) who have not been baptized and instructed in the faith or (2) who come from another church body, not in altar or pulpit fellowship with us, refrain from receiving Holy Communion.

For those preparing to receive Holy Communion, Luther encourages us to ask ourselves these questions:

Do **I repent** of my sins, desiring to turn away from them, back to the Lord?

Do **I believe** Jesus died and rose for me and gives me His Body and Blood this day "for the forgiveness of sins"?

Do **I intend** to use this means of grace to change my life, following His will and way?

We ask that all who receive the Lord's Supper fill out a "Care Card" and place it in the offering plate. Please note that reduced-alcoholic white wine is available in the center cups of the communion tray.

**Peace Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

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WORSHIP SERVICES:

Holy Communion Celebrated at all Services

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00a.m.

Sunday Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School (Sept. –May) 10:30 a.m.

Website: www.peaceneenah.com

YouTube: Peace Neenah

