## ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Wheatfield, New York

Last Sunday of the Church Year November 26, 2023



We are a Christian community called to **worship** and sent to **serve**, welcoming all to **walk** with Christ and **grow** in faith.

## 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).

INVOCATION Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

Psalm 95:1-3a, 6-7

- **P** Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
- let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- P Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving!
- **C** For the Lord is a great God.
- **P** Oh come, let us worship and bow down.
- **C** For He is our God,
- **P** and we are the people of His pasture,
- **C** and the sheep of His hand.

# HYMN: "COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING"

LSB 905

Melodies to the sung parts of the liturgy can be found in the red hymnal ("LSB") in front of you, as referenced at the end of the line next to the hymn title.

# **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

Ezekiel 34:11; 1 Corinthians 15:27

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

#### **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

Luke 2:14; John 1:29 LSB 204, sung

- 1 To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth; Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth! We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing— Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.
- 2 To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray; O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry, Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—
- 3 For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High, In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray together:
- Gracious God, move us to reflect Your love for us in all that we say and do, so that Your light shines through us each day until Your Son returns to usher us into Your eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

<sup>11</sup>"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As 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. <sup>13</sup>And 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. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GoD. <sup>16</sup>I will

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

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. . . .

<sup>20</sup>"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, <sup>22</sup>I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. <sup>23</sup>And 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 am the LORD; I have spoken."

# NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

<sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. <sup>25</sup>For he must

**I** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup>The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup>For "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. <sup>28</sup>When 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.

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup>And 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.'

<sup>41</sup>"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. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup>I 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.'

<sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or

into eternal life."

<sup>31</sup>[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. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then 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. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And

<sup>44</sup>Then 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?' <sup>45</sup>Then 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.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### **SERMON**

Main Points:	
One thing NEW I learned:	What can I apply to my life?

#### **OFFERING**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

- **P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

Final petition:

- Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

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.

BENEDICTION

Hebrews 13:20-21

- Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.
- C Amen.

**HYMN: "CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS"** 

LSB 525



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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