



LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Sunday, November 22, 2020

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People of His Pasture!

As We Gather

Today is the Last Sunday of the Church Year. This Sunday is traditionally filled with themes of Christ's roles as King and Judge. But consider these words from Psalm 95: "We are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand." We are God's chosen sheep. He is our Shepherd. We follow Him as He goes to seek the lost, bring back the stray, and bind up the injured.

Prelude & Welcome

Ring of the Tower Bell

HYMN - 510 A Multitude Comes from the East and the West

- 1 A multitude comes from the east and the west
To sit at the feast of salvation
With Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the blest,
Obeying the Lord's invitation.
Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!

- 2 O God, let us hear when our Shepherd shall call
In accents persuasive and tender,
That while there is time we make haste, one and all,
And find Him, our mighty defender.
Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!

- 3 All trials shall be like a dream that is past,
Forgotten all trouble and mourning.
All questions and doubts have been answered at last,
When rises the light of that morning.
Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!

- 4 The heavens shall ring with an anthem more grand
Than ever on earth was recorded.
The blest of the Lord shall receive at His hand
The crown to the victors awarded.
Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!

Invocation

- 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;
C 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.

Confession and Absolution

- P** Indeed, our heavenly Father has called us to be His people. He has led us to green pastures and still waters. Yet, there have been times when we have treated our fellow sheep with disdain, when we have wandered away from our Shepherd. But our Good Shepherd does not abandon us, and we confess our sins before Him and one another.

Silence for reflection

- P** Heavenly Father,
C we confess that we have wandered away from You. We confess that we have acted shamefully toward our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might follow You to the green pastures and still waters of everlasting life.
- P** Our heavenly Father has heard Your confession and sent His only Son, Jesus, to be our Good Shepherd. Jesus searches for each one of His sheep. He brings back those who have strayed. He binds up the injured. He even lays down His life for the sheep. By Christ's death and resurrection, God forgives you all your sins. 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. We are sought by our Shepherd. We are forgiven in Christ.

Introit

Psalm 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven
and a new earth,

the home of righteousness.

O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!

Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.

And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?

My hope is in you.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

“Sing Holy, Holy, Holy”

- 1 Sing holy, holy, holy
To Christ, the Lord of might.
His power and His glory
Fill earth and heav’n with light.
His merciful endeavor
Invokes our praising cries.
For we will dwell forever
With Him when we arise.

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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. 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Old Testament

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.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 95:1–7a; antiphon: v. 7a



¹Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD;*

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!

²**Let us come into his presence with thanks- | giving;***

let us make a joyful noise to him with | songs of praise!

³For the LORD is a | great God,*

and a great King a- | bove all gods.

⁴**In his hand are the depths | of the earth;***

the heights of the mountains are his | also.

⁵The sea is his, for he | made it,*

and his hands formed the | dry land.

⁶**Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;***

let us kneel before the LORD, our | Maker!

⁷For he | is our God,*

and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep | of his hand.

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Revelation 22:13

P Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega,

C **the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Alleluia.**

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.’⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment,
but the righteous into eternal life.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN - “Day of Judgement! Day of Wonders!”

- 1 Day of judgment! Day of wonders!
Hark! the trumpet's awful sound,
Louder than a thousand thunders,
Shakes the vast creation round.
How the summons will the sinner's heart confound!

- 2 See the Judge, our nature wearing,
Clothed in majesty divine;
You who long for His appearing
Then shall say, "This God is mine!"
Gracious Savior, own me in that day as Thine.

- 3 At His call the dead awaken,
Rise to life from earth and sea;
All the pow'rs of nature, shaken
By His looks, prepare to flee.
Careless sinner, what will then become of thee?

- 4 But to those who have confessed Him,
Loved and trusted Him below,
He will say, "Come near, ye bless-ed,
See the kingdom I bestow;
You forever shall my love and glory know."

Sermon “The Backwards Court of Judge Jesus”
Matthew 25:31-46

HYMN - 509 “Christ Is Surely Coming”

- 1 Christ is surely coming
Bringing His reward,
Alpha and Omega,
First and Last and Lord:
Root and Stem of David,
Brilliant Morning Star;
Meet your Judge and Savior,
Nations near and far!

- 2 See the holy city!
There they enter in,
All by Christ made holy,
Washed from ev'ry sin:
Thirsty ones, desiring
All He loves to give,
Come for living water,
Freely drink, and live!

**3 Grace be with God's people!
Praise His holy name!
Father, Son and Spirit,
Evermore the same;
Hear the certain promise
From the_ eternal home:
"Surely I come quickly!
Come, Lord Jesus, come!"**

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Organ Offertory and Stewardship*MINUTE*

Offering Prayer

Confession of Faith regarding the End of Days

Mark 13:19-27

¹⁹For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. ²⁰And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. ²¹And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. ²²False christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. ²³But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

²⁴"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Prayer of the Church *each prayer concludes...*

P ... Hear our prayer, O Lord.

G Give ear to our cry.

Lord's Prayer

G **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.

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.

HYMN - "O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking"

- 1** O'er the distant mountains breaking
Comes the redd'ning dawn of day.
Rise, my soul, from sleep awaking;
Rise and sing and watch and pray.
'Tis your Savior, 'tis your Savior,
On His bright returning way.

- 2** Come, O Long-Expected Savior,
Weary here, I wait for Thee.
Life is dark and earth is dreary
Where Thy light I cannot see.
O my Savior, O my Savior,
Hasten now, return to me?

- 3** Nearer is my soul's salvation;
Spent the night, the day at hand.
Keep me in my humble station,
Watching for Thee till I stand,
O my Savior, O my Savior,
In Thy bright, Thy promised, land.

- 4** With my lamp well-trimmed and burning,
Swift to hear and slow to stray,
Watching for Thy glad returning,
Waiting for that bless-ed day.
Come, my Savior, Come, my Savior,
O my Savior, quickly come!

✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

To God Alone Be Glory

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