Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." *Matthew 16:16*

THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

November 22nd, 2020



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

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A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS

We're glad you're here! If you've never been to a liturgical Lutheran service it may look and sound different, but please bear with us! We worship the way we do for a reason. We gather to receive the gifts of salvation that our Triune God eagerly comes to give to us through His Word and Sacrament. In these gifts we receive faith, forgiveness, and life everlasting. Our worship is the unwrapping of these gifts: the liturgy, hymns, and preaching proclaim His Word to us, remind us of the promise of our baptism, and prepare us to receive the Lord's Supper. Through these means of grace God comes to serve us so our worship is organized and centered around receiving these gifts through faith.

A STATEMENT ABOUT CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

And they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Luke 18:15-17; Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

We eagerly bring our children before the Lord in worship. All are conceived in sin and need the forgiveness He gives in Word and Sacrament. Therefore, we ask your children remain in worship with us, unless it becomes necessary to remove them for a time. There is no better way to train up our children than by them watching and absorbing. As they learn from us about God and all He has done for us, may we learn from them simple faith.





thirst with liv - ing wa - ter Spring-ing up branch-es Your vine - yard e - ter - nal life we gain. in Till God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us

Christ, the way that leads unfailing 5 To the Father's home on high, Christ, the truth that frees the captive, Christ, the life that cannot die. Mediator to the Father. Sacrifice and great High Priest: Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions, There to share Your wedding feast.

 $\triangle 6$ Christ, the Alpha and Omega, Christ, the firstborn from the dead, Christ, the life and resurrection. Christ. the Church's glorious head: Praise and thanks and adoration And unending worship be To the Father and the Spirit And to You eternally.

e - ter - nal - ly.

hear Your voice a - lone.

+ Confession and Absolution +

Stand. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **G** Amen.
- **P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** 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 self-examination.

- **P** O almighty God, merciful Father.
- **C** 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.

Sit

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

HYMN OF THE MONTH 680 Thine the Amen. Thine the Praise Thine the Thine A1 a men the praise le Thine 2 Thine the life the e ter nal ly _ 3 Thine the tru ly Thine the Thine the _ yes Thine the king Thine Thine the the dom prize 5 Thine the glo the No _ in night more ry ias an - gels raise Thine the ev ing head lu -er last prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree Thee ta - ble the guest Thine the all from we mer - cy won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise light Thine the Thine the dy - ing on - ly riv - er tree Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the glo - ry Then Thine the be the ring - ing and the yet to Thine Then the jus - tice the Thine the of Thy ways glo - ry ho - ly Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - lv Thine the Thine the har - vest then the cup sto - ry rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the Gone the cry sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the sto - ry ho - ly Then the wel - come the least Then the to Cel e bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the vine-yard then the lift - ed lift - ed cup is up up. sigh - ing dy - ing lift - ed high. gone the what was loss liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er more ev - er - more. won - der all in - creas - ing Thy feast at Thy feast. at splen-dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

INTROIT

- In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.
- **C** O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!



0 10 O O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O O O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. Θ O 0 0 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us. O 0 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer. Θ O O Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -O For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord. on us. Θ O O Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho ly Ghost, -O 9 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men. **SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY P** The Lord be with you. **C** And with thy spir it.

▶ 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.



Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

FIRST READING

"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. 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. 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. I 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I 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. ...

"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. 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. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *95:1–7a*

- P Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- C Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- **P** For the LORD is a great God, | and a great King above all gods.
- **C** In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.
- **P** The sea is his, for he made it, | and his hands formed the dry land.
- C Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 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. 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

EARLY SERVICE—ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega,

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



[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. 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. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 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. 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, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you as tranger and visit you?' 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.'

"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. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 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.' 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?' 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.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.

Sit

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence HYMN OF THE DAY si - lence 1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep And with fear and 2 King of kings vet born of Mar - y, As of old on 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en van - guard Spreads its 4 At His feet the six winged ser - aph. Cher - u - bim with trem - bling stand: Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed, earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, the the Light of Light, de - scend - ing on way As sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence For with bless-ing in His hand Christ our God to earth dethe bod - y In and the blood, He will give to all the From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al lescend ing Comes our hom-age de mand. to faith ful own self for heav'n - ly food. His the dark-ness clears quish As way. van a Most High!" lu ia! Al - le - lu - ia. Lord

SERMON, FELLOWSHIP PAD

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- **P** ... let us pray to the Lord: **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** ... Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.



PREFACE & SANCTUS





THE WORDS OF OUR LORD & PAX DOMINI

▶ We have arrived at the high point of the Service of the Sacrament. The pastor, as the called and ordained servant of Christ to faithfully administer the Sacrament, now consecrates, or sets apart, the bread and the wine for God's special use. As he does so, he uses the words Christ used when instituting the Supper. We treat these words with respect and honor as they bridge space and time to bring the past sacrifice of Christ's own body and blood to us here and now in the bread and the wine.

For this reason, we use grain bread and wine—the elements Christ Himself used to institute the supper. Just as with the words we do not innovate. The elements deserve respect on account of their divinely mandated purpose. Even the vessels, the linens, how we approach the altar, and everything else related to this moment confesses

what we believe is happening in this meal. The body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins is manifest in the concrete reality of the bread and wine. We do not believe this on account of reason, but on account of faith.

After the elements are consecrated, the pastor recalls Jesus' Easter greeting of peace now that His death and resurrection have secured for us peace with God and with one another. The congregation responds with a joyful, "Amen."

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always.



LATE SERVICE—AGNUS DEI

▶ After the proclamation of the Lord's peace we are once again reminded why His peace is now our own. John the Baptist points us to the sacrificial "Lamb of God," *Agnus Dei* in Latin. It is through Him alone that we have access to God's mercy and peace. And so in this scriptural song we adore the One who comes to us as the Lamb slain for sinners.

This canticle also provides the practical purpose of giving time for the presiding minister and his assistants to commune and prepare the elements for distribution as the congregation savors these devotional words in their own preparation to receive the Lord's body and blood.

It is appropriate for the communicants to say "Amen," and make the sign of the cross after receiving the elements as a reminder of their continual baptismal relationship with God.



A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS

There are many notions and convictions about worship and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. It is our belief that Jesus Christ is present in this holy meal – that in eating and drinking the bread and wine we receive Christ's true body and blood. Because it can be received in an unworthy manner for judgement rather than blessing (1 Corinthians 11:27) we make use of the practice of close(d) communion. If you are not a confirmed member in good standing of a sister congregation within our Synod, you may come forward to receive a blessing by crossing your hands over your chest. Even if you do not come forward, please join in our prayer for when all divisions cease, and God's elect will be together in joyous assembly in the banquet hall of heaven!

PRAYER FOR RIGHT RECEPTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

"O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of sins. Make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For Questions and Answers to help PREPARE for the Lord's Supper, turn to page 329 in hymnal.

LATE SERVICE—POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: NUNC DIMITTIS

P After all communicants have received the gift of Christ we sing a canticle. Most often sung are "Thank the Lord," taken from Psalm 105, or the "Nunc Dimittis," sung by Simeon in Luke 2. These are appropriate responses to receiving the manifestation of God's salvation.





THANKSGIVING

■ After our sung response to the Sacrament we turn again to the Lord in prayer. We return thanks for the gift of Christ manifest in the bread and the wine, and then we ask for the blessing that Christ be manifest in us.



▶ We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

▶ As the Service of the Sacrament began with an exchange between pastor and people, it now concludes with the same. After receiving the Sacrament together their unique relationship in Christ is reaffirmed. The Lord Himself speaks this blessing upon the people through their pastor, and they in turn in acknowledgement of Christ's Spirit resting upon him. We then in turn give thanks to God.



▶ The service itself concludes the way it began, with a recognition of the host. The Aaronic Benediction, found in Numbers 6, is a uniquely Lutheran choice to end the service, and yet it underscores the continuity of praise we have with all God's people. These last words of the service are spoken from God Himself. The Benediction is

more than a prayer or wish, but the pastor bestows this trinitarian blessing upon the people for the rest of the week. As it is given, worshipers may make the sign of the cross in recognition of this blessing.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.



HYMN TO DEPART

⁸³⁷ Lift High the Cross



- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be: Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Acknowledgments

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