November 26, 2023 **Christ the King**

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

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 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 watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says 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, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide. I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

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, the LORD, have spoken.

SECOND READING. Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all

GOSPEL. Matthew 25:31-46

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that 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 something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?"And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me 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 nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. "Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?"Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just 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."

From the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible Copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.



Sunday, November 26, 2023

"In response to God's love, St. Matthew's is a faith community welcoming all to grow in faith, to worship Christ and to reach out to everyone."

Welcome!

We hope our worship will be a blessing to you. Our Lord's Supper is being celebrated today. Everyone is welcome to receive this Holy Sacrament.

Christ the King

As you enter worship today, you are invited to complete the following sentence on a post-it note: "My hope for Christ's church in the world is ..." Our ideas will be incorporated into Pastor Bart's sermon.

If you missed last week's sermon, it is available on our website.

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Church Secretary: Jennifer Allcorn905-734-4746

Organist: Lily Jasinskas

Confession and Forgiveness

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All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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,
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.

Offering Prayer (read in unison) From Sundays & Seasons, © 2022 Augsburg Fortress

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings.

Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.

The lines of the Psalm printed in bold font are sung in unison to the tune of a familiar hymn. The lines in plain font are read by the leader.

Psalm 95:1-7a — Tune 842 Oh, Worship the King

Leader: Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and sing joyful songs of praise.

Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above.
Oh, gratefully sing his pow'r and his love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

The earth with its store of wonders untold The Almighty's pow'r has founded of old; Established it fast by a changeless decree, And round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Come, let us bow down and worship him; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, In him do we trust, nor find him to fail. His mercies how tender, how firm to the end, Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

 $Sing\ Psalms!$ By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1999/2005 by Creative Communications for the Parish

Dates to Remember

TODAY	Council Meeting after the service
Tues/Fri	9:30 a.m. – Pickleball; contact Margaret for info
Dec 12	12:30 p.m. – Lutheran Women Christmas Lunch at M.T Bellies, all ladies are welcome to attend; RSVP to Ruth Kiers by Dec 5.
Dec 14	5:30 p.m. – St. Matthew's Christmas Dinner at M.T Bellies; RSVP to Dianne by Dec 7.

Are you looking for a way to be more involved at St. Matthew's? We are looking for people to greet and assist folks attending worship. Please contact the church office if you are interested in serving as an usher.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Communion Setting 4 – Page 147

•	U	U	
Prelude			
Welcoming Hymn		438, v	/1

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiv	venessprinted
Gathering Song	389 Christ is Alive!
	Let Christians Sing
Greeting	Page 147
Kyrie	
Page 147	
"This is the Feast".	
Page 149	
Prayer of the Day	

WORD

First Reading	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a	printed in bulletin
Second Reading	Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel Acclamation	Page 151
	"Glory to you, O Lord."
Gospel	Matthew 25:31-46
	"Praise to you, O Christ."
Sermon	
Hymn of the Day	431 O Christ, What
	Can it Mean for Us
Apostles' Creed	Page 105
Prayers of Intercession	on
Prayer Response	"Your mercy is great."

Peace MEAL

Offering Prayer	printed
Great Thanksgiving	Page 152
Eucharistic Prayer	
The Lord's Prayer	Page 154
Communion	
"Lamb of God"	Page 154
Communion Hymns	502, 436
Prayer after Communion	

(non-contact gestures)

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Song 430 Rejoice, for Christ is King!

Dismissal: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

