

Service of Holy Communion

November 14, 2021 25th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Organ

“Now Thank We All Our God” J.S. Bach

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for ✝ Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG ELW 652 “Built on a Rock”

1 Built on a rock the church shall stand,
even when steeples are falling;
crumbled have spires in ev'ry land,
bells still are chiming and calling—
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.

3 Christ builds a house of living stones:
we are his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Where two or three will seek his face,
he in their midst will show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt.
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, **your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: *Daniel 12:1-3*

The book of Daniel is an example of apocalyptic literature, which is full of strange visions and symbolism. Arising during times of great persecution, apocalyptic literature is concerned with God's revelation about the end time and the coming kingdom of God, when God will vindicate the righteous who have been persecuted.

¹“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING: *Psalms 16*

¹Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you;

I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

²**All my delight is in the godly that are in the land,
 upon those who are noble among the people.**

³But those who run after other gods
shall have their troubles multiplied.
⁴**I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods,
never take their names upon my lips.**
⁵O LORD, you are my portion and my cup;
it is you who uphold my lot.
⁶**My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;
indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**
⁷I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
my heart teaches me night after night.
⁸**I have set the LORD always before me;
because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**
⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.
¹⁰**For you will not abandon me to the grave,
nor let your holy one see the pit.**
¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of
joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for-evermore.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:11-25

Images of worship and sacrifice are used throughout Hebrews to highlight what Christ has uniquely accomplished through his death. Because we have received forgiveness through Christ's death, we live with sincere hearts by trusting in God's promises and encouraging love and good works from each other.

¹¹Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," ¹³and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. ¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, ¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," ¹⁷he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full

assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 13:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the thirteenth chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the last week of his life, Jesus warned his disciples concerning trials that were to come upon them and upon the world. He exhorts the listener: Do not be alarmed.

¹As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

I remember those big stones mentioned in today's gospel reading. I was with a travel group in Jerusalem years and years ago. We went to the Western Wall, which is all that remains of Solomon's great Temple. The off-white, beige and tan limestones in that wall were gigantic. Google tells me the individual stones are 44 feet long and 11 feet high – just one stone. How they were put into place, I can't say, but when the Temple was whole, it must have been a magnificent, awe-inspiring building.

Great cathedrals are like that. They give us a sense of the holy with their lofty archways and soaring ceilings, their huge, intricately carved stone pillars, their ancient mosaics, heavy wooden doors, ornate altars, smooth marble floors... My favorite is the Washington National Cathedral in the District of Columbia. Just walking inside can take your breath away - the majesty, the hush, the soft, slanted beams of light. So I understand why, as they exited the Temple, the disciples said, "Look at these stones, teacher!" They're awfully impressive.

"Not one of those stones will be left upon another," Jesus responded. "All will be thrown down." His words must have nearly made their hearts stop. The Temple, that beautiful structure, was the center of their worship life as a people. It was, to their identity and faith, what the Capital building in DC is to our national-identity and government -- the primary symbol of who we are. The idea that it could be destroyed was inconceivable. If the Temple became a pile of rubble, if our nation's Capital was crushed to bits, what would that mean for our future, for our survival as a people? **Could** we survive that?

Peter, James, John, and Andrew wanted to be prepared. They asked Jesus what they should look for, how they could tell when disaster was about to strike, when the end of their world was coming. If you knew what to look for, or had an approximate time, you could build a bunker, store non-perishable food, have the car or donkey-cart loaded and ready to flee, get in touch with your cousin across the border and go stay with him for a while. Jesus' words,

“Not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down,” were terrifying.

We sometimes hear people say similar things, on the news or in casual (or maybe heated) conversation. “If things keep going like this,” or “if we don’t put a stop to that... it’ll bring an end to our democracy.” We’ve probably all heard that one. Changing weather patterns have brought an abundance of wildfires and hurricanes, droughts and floods, as well as questions about how much longer we’ll be able to live on this planet.

Misinformation on the internet gets us confused about what’s real and what isn’t. Computers, they say, will soon be smarter than people (if they aren’t already), and the next big thing is the Metaverse -- an imaginary place people can visit virtually by wearing fiber optic goggles. While there, they can interact with one another, go to a virtual movie together, have virtual coffee, dance virtually, walk in a virtual park and so on. My first thought when I heard about the Metaverse was, “I have lived too long.”

When is this going to happen, Lord? What are the signs that will tell us to get ready, to head for the underground bunker or load the car and try to make it to the border? We don’t want our world to collapse. We’re not ready for something completely and utterly new. So how do we handle this, whatever it might be -- buildings falling down, or democracy changing until we hardly recognize it, or climate shifts that mess with our sea levels and our forests and our farms, or new technologies that make our heads hurt? What do we do?

Jesus told Peter, James, John, and Andrew, this: First, keep your heads. People will show up claiming to have all the answers. Listen carefully, think things through, use your common sense. Don’t be led astray by whoever shouts the loudest, or promises a golden egg.

Next, there will be wars and calamities. Terrible things happen in this world -- eight people crushed to death at a concert in Houston, 26 children killed in a school fire in Niger. Nations are at war and people die. COVID is still taking lives across the globe. Horrible things. But these do not mean the world is ending. In fact, you can look at them as being the initial birth pangs.

That’s hard to hear, isn’t it, that the deaths of human beings, even children, could be called “birth pangs.” I’m not sure how to

understand it. Jesus must be talking about something greater than death, something that can overrule, overturn, and reach beyond death. Because his words take what is indescribably awful, not acceptable and not to *be* accepted -- senseless deaths -- and makes them signs of new life, for the ones who've died and for the whole world.

"This..." all this chaos you see, all this uncertainty you experience, all this loss happening in the world... "This is but the beginning of the birth pangs." Something unimaginably good is about to be born here. Out of the pain and loss, out of the devastation and ruin, God is gathering bits of flesh and tears, breath and bone, and creating a world where dying and grief and shame and rejection and hurt have no place, but only joy and welcome and friendship and peace and love.

Look at the lovely wooden planks in this ceiling; aren't they beautiful? Look at the stained glass windows with their blues and greens, golds, reds and purples? If you get up close, you can see the textures of the cut glass; it looks as though it's been scooped out with an ice cream scoop, but so smooth and perfect.

These pews that creak with age; the kneeler pads were made specially and dedicated by certain families; those new chairs have yet to be dedicated but have been purchased in memory of Barbara Eickman, the baptismal font came from St. Andrew. This place means a lot to us, all the times we've worshiped here, all the people we've known here, all the memories that live here. It's not as big or as majestic as the Temple in Jerusalem was, but were it damaged or torn down, we'd be crushed.

Forty years after Jesus was crucified, the Temple was destroyed. But the disciples were ready for it because Jesus, who loved the Temple, had told his friends, who also loved it, 'Don't worry. This is not the end. Painful as it is, this is only the beginning of a new thing God is doing.'

So stay alert. Don't be fooled by big talkers. And don't give up hope, even when life is chaotic and the future looks dim. God sees what is happening, and God is gathering bits and pieces of our world to create and give birth to something new, something good, something beautiful.

Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 438 *“My Lord, What a Morning”*

Refrain

My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.

1 You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

2 You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

3 You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

The assembly stands.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole Church let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God our creator, you show us the path of life. Bless faithful people everywhere with humility as they extend compassion to those who have experienced harm in religious spaces. Cultivate healthy congregations that tell of and enact your reconciling love. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our constant, you love our universe from beginning to end. As the seasons change, protect animals that migrate and hibernate. Bring them safely to a sheltered place and a more abundant season. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our ruler, you write your law on human minds and hearts. Give wisdom to all elected leaders and officials to govern with insight and compassion. Make them mindful of the well-being of all people so that your world will flourish. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our stronghold, we pray for those affected by natural disasters. Come to the aid of all survivors of earthquakes, famines, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires, and the first responders who support them. Calm their fear, supply their need, and be the solid ground beneath their feet. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our guide, you are greater than we can imagine. Surround congregations with your expansive inclusion. Be present in the midst of disagreements, differences, and questions. Unite people of diverse viewpoints in the love of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our beginning and our end, your beloved people shine like the brightness of the sky. We thank you for the lives of all who rest in your eternal mercy, from famous saints to the people we have loved. Assure us of your resurrection promise. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, listen to the prayers of this gathered people...

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministry of Jesus at Shepherd King. If you wish to give to Shepherd King, there is a donate button on our website - www.skicsa.org

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Please have the bread and wine/juice ready for Holy Communion)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the second measure. The third and fourth staves end with a double bar line.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resur - rec - tion
opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.

The musical score consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the second measure. The third staff has a double bar line after the third measure. The fourth staff has a double bar line after the fourth measure. The fifth and sixth staves end with a double bar line.

And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The LORD is our God, the LORD alone: God who made heaven and earth, who flung the stars across the sky, who raised up Moses to lead Israel from bondage into freedom, who renewed his covenant through prophets and priests, and who in these last days has spoken to us by his Son. Blessed be God for the Word made flesh. Blessed be God for Jesus who ate with sinners, challenged those in power, welcomed everyone, showed the way of the kingdom, and died and rose again that we might have life. We remember...

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints.

Take the bread and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you. (*please consume the bread*)

Take the cup and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you. (*please drink from the cup*)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council meets on Tuesday evening, here, at 7pm

Worship and Music Ministry Team meets this Saturday, via Zoom, at 10:00 am.

Bob Schoonover's funeral is also on Saturday, here at Shepherd King, at 2pm.

Next Sunday is Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the Church year. We will also be celebrating Thanksgiving. After worship next week we'll have confirmation class.

We're glad so many of you tune in to worship with Shepherd King on Sundays. Please call us at 210-344-5881, if you're in need of prayer, a listening ear, or anything else.

BLESSING

God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✝ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN ELW 624 *"Jesus, Still Lead On"*

- 1 Jesus, still lead on,
till our rest be won;
and, although the way be cheerless,
we will follow, calm and fearless;
guide us by your hand
to the promised land.

- 3 When we seek relief
from a long-felt grief,
when temptations come alluring
make us patient and enduring;
show us that bright shore
where we weep no more.

4 Jesus, still lead on,
till our rest be won;
heav'nly leader, still direct us,
still support, console, protect us,
till we safely stand
in the promised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.

DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us,
go in peace to serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Organ

"Now Thank We All Our God" Sigfried Karg-Elert

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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We ask at the end of the service that you kindly throw away your bulletin, communion cup and any trash you may have in the receptacles provided at the rear of the sanctuary. Your assistance is most appreciated.



Veteran's Day, November 11, 2020 - Thank you for your service!
Curtis Classen, Sine Lee Ferguson, Melvin Gerloff, Neal Haddock, Cliff Hughes,
Lane Ongstad, Jessie Tebbenkamp & Orville Tschirhart