

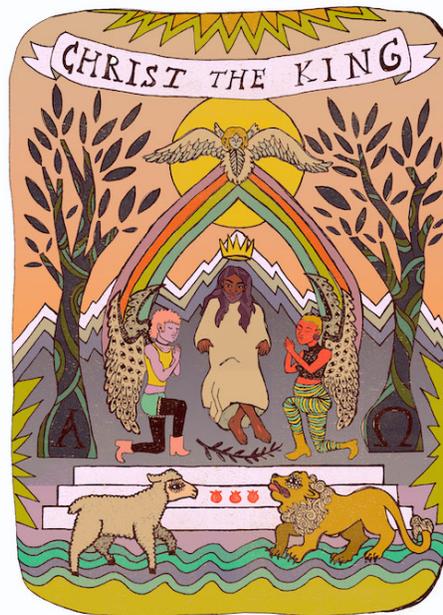
THE NOON SERVICE

Christ the King Sunday

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Community responses are in bold

WELCOME



GATHERING SONG



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how pass - ing
2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
3 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his
4 For us to wick - ed hands be - trayed, scourged, mocked, in
5 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he
6 All glo - ry to our Lord and God for love so



1 thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
2 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions
3 dai - ly works he wrought; by words and signs and
4 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
5 went on high to reign; for us he sent his
6 deep, so high, so broad; the Trin - i - ty whom



1 God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
2 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er ov - er - threw.
3 ac - tions, thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
4 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.
5 Spi - rit here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
6 we a - dore for ev - er and for ev - er - more.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), alt. Music: *Deo Gracias*, English ballad melody, Trinity College MS., 15th cent.;
harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950 Copyright © by permission of Hymns Ancient & Modern Limited. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Blessed be the God of our salvation.
Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Amen.

THE LESSONS

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95:1-7a

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 raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said, "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.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

All are welcome to share but please be respectful and appropriate. Please speak for yourself with awareness of the impact your words have on others. What is often shared in this community is vulnerable—we ask that you be respectful of not sharing other people’s stories. Examine your own assumptions and perceptions. Be sensitive to differences in communication and cultural styles. And remember: listening is a spiritual act.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Officiant: Hear O my people, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

Officiant: This is the first and great commandment.

The second is like it: love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

THE PEACE

Officiant: The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy God, in this season we come before you mindful of your many servants surrounding us in heaven and on earth. Give us eyes to see your messengers in every place we go and every stranger we meet.

We ask your blessings upon the Church and upon all who serve you within the community of the faithful. Just as your angels proclaim your love and mercy in heaven, so give to the Church the courage to proclaim your kingdom here on earth.

God of Saints & Angels, may we find your messengers at work within the Church.

At the birth of Jesus, your angels proclaimed Peace on Earth. May our nation and all nations of the earth pursue the holy work of peacemaking. May those in authority lead as you would choose, establishing justice and always pursuing the common good of all those entrusted to their care.

God of Saints & Angels, may we find your messengers at work in the nations.

God of wild places, your messengers surround us in the wonders of Creation. May we learn to listen closely and cherish the voices of birds, rivers, mountains and trees. Give us enduring wisdom to care for the fragile wonders of the earth and may we always prove careful stewards of your handiwork.

God of Saints & Angels, may we find your messengers at work in Creation.

God who calls us all to live in community with those different from ourselves. Let us learn to see Christ in every person with whom we live and work. May we learn to truly live as your saints, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

God of Saints & Angels, may we find your messengers at work in our neighbors.

God of the wounded, the friendless, and the forgotten. Comfort all who feel alone and guide us to care for them with deeds and not words alone. May we take courage from the example of your saints who befriended the hurting and confronted the powers of injustice, violence, and oppression.

God of Saints & Angels, may we find your messengers at work in those who suffer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died. We remember especially the victims of injustice and the martyrs and prophets of every generation who have gone before us, laying down their lives for the proclamation of your Word.

God of Saints & Angels, may we find your messengers at work in the communion of your saints.

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Oh God, we confess the weakness and sinfulness of our lives. We have often turned away from you to seek our own desires. Too often we are complicit in systemic evil and out of our neglect we have undertaken nothing good to confront it. From this sin of idleness and indifference set us free. Lead us into fruitful effort and deliver us from profitless lives. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life **.Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive

those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
No hands but yours, no feet but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks with compassion on the hurting world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
And the blessing of God—Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer—be with you today and always.

Amen.

Blessing attributed to St. Teresa of Avila

CLOSING SONG

May the Lord, mighty God,
bless and keep us forever,
grant us peace, perfect peace,
courage in every endeavor.

Lift up and see God's face,
God's grace forever;
may the Lord, mighty God,
bless us and keep us forever.

Words: Traditional Liturgical Text. Music: Wen Ti, Chinese Origin, adapt. I-to Loh (b. 1936)

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**