

Welcome to Worship



Sunday, November 14, 2021 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction

November begins with All Saints Day and ends in or near Advent, when we anticipate Christ's coming again. It is fitting, then, that the readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. In the turmoil of hope, fear, and disbelief that these predictions provoke in us, Hebrews sounds a note of confident trust. Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we walk it confidently, our hearts and bodies washed in baptismal water, trusting the one who has promised forgiveness. The more we see the last day approaching, the more important it is to meet together to provoke one another to love.

* = Please stand

We Are Gathered for Worship

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

Welcome / Centering Prayer

Pastor: Lord God, the source of all good things, we pause in your presence and hold our day before you. Still us, calm us, guide us as we enter this day. **All: Amen.**

Prelude

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

* Call to Worship *(inspired Psalm 16)*

Asst: Come, bless the Lord, in whom we find our refuge and safety.

All: You are our God; all the good things come from You alone.

Asst: Come, bless the Lord, who gives us a rich inheritance, and surrounds us with abundance.

All: You are our God; our lives are in your hands.

Asst: Come, bless the Lord, who guides us on the path to eternal life, whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

All: You are our God; we will not be shaken.

Asst: Let’s worship God together!

* Confession and Forgiveness

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

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Pastor: Have mercy on us, O God,

All: 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.

Pastor: 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. **All: Amen.**

**Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come,**

**Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

***Prayer of the Day**

Asst: Let us pray, Almighty God,

**All: 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.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

Asst: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

We Hear and Respond to God's Word

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

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.”

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25

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

* = Please stand

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.

Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

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.”

Children’s Chat / Message

Pastor Bill Ottum

***Hymn**

“Drawn to the Light”

ELW 593

**People who walk in darkness have sought a light in the heart of the darkest night.
Just when we thought all would be lost, we were drawn to the light of God.**

***Refrain:* Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight to be drawn to the light of God.**

**How can we tell a heaven from hell if ev'ryone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels, and we're drawn to the light of God. *Refrain***

**Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the one who is shining bright,
bids us to come! Life has begun when we're drawn to the light of God. *Refrain***

*Affirmation Of Faith – Apostles’ Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and was born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

Asst: 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.)

Asst: 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, **All: hear our prayer.**

Asst: 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, **All: hear our prayer.**

Asst: 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, **All: hear our prayer.**

Asst: God our stronghold, you are present amid disaster. We pray for those affected by natural disasters (*recent natural disasters may be named*). 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, **All: hear our prayer.**

Asst: 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, **All: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Let us now share other concerns on our hearts and minds ... spoken, or in silence.

(Time is taken for prayers to be offered ...)

Pastor: 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 (*especially*). Assure us of your resurrection promise. God, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

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

Offering *We join millions of Christians all over the world in joyfully responding to God's goodness through the giving of our financial resources. Offering plates are near the communion table, or offerings may be mailed to: River of Life, PO Box 670470, Chugiak, AK, 99567.*

Prayer of Blessing

Asst: 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. **All: Amen.**

We Come to the Lord's Table

***The Great Thanksgiving / Holy Communion**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those

disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

***Words of Institution** *(In the night in which he was betrayed ...)*

Pastor: Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Ever living God, we offer ourselves to you in praise and thanksgiving, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Pastor: Let us pray the prayer our Lord taught to his disciples:

***The Lord's Prayer**

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.

Pastor: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

***Distribution:** All who believe in Jesus as their risen Lord and Savior are invited to His Table. The clear liquid is grape juice, the red is wine. Take the bread and wine and consume them after leaving the table.*

Communion Blessing and Prayer

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

We Are Sent Out to Serve

Congregation Life / Announcements

*Benediction / Blessing

Pastor: 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.
All: Amen.

*Sending Song

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

ELW 547

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face— our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

* Our Purpose Statement

We are a community of faith, called to *Glorify God...*
Grow in faith and love, and
Go into the world with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

*Sending

Asst: Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord. All: Thanks be to
God.

Postlude

“Look, Ye Saints! The Sight is Glorious”