

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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ironriverlutherans.org

Find us on Facebook



November 22, 2020

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Gathering

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: **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.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Crown Him with Many Crowns

ELW 855

- 1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,

who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

5 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

GREETING

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

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: **O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

Word

CHILDREN'S TIME

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

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As 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. ¹³I 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. ¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵I myself

will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I 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. ²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

²Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.

³For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

⁵The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

^{7a}For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

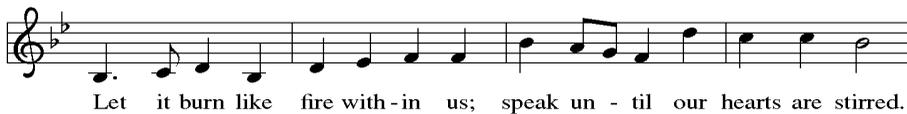
In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸so 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God 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, ²¹far 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. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then 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; ³⁵for 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, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then 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? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And 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.' ⁴¹Then 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; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I 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.' ⁴⁴Then 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?' ⁴⁵Then 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.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Tom Wagner

CHOIR

I Saw The Light

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (see end of bulletin)

PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Meal

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of all goodness,

C: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P: May the God of all creation in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

For the Beauty of the Earth

ELW 879

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: *Refrain*

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

Text: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

DISMISSAL

P: Beloved of God, go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need. *(A brief silence.)*

Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Restore our capacity to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away. Heal all who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Protect all healthcare workers and deliver us from deadly virus'. We pray for all on our prayer lists and those we name before you now in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

"CALLED TO WORSHIP, SENT FORTH TO SERVE"

Pastor:	Pastor Carol Braun	osl@cheqnet.net
Secretary:	Evelyn Pamer	oslsec@cheqnet.net
Musicians	Linda Hultman/Patty Lehman/Kathy Rewalt	
Lector	Ellen Wagner	
Recording Technician	Dick Rewalt	



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STAFF

Pastor Carol Braun
 Linda Hultman, Keyboard
 Patty Lehman, Keyboard
 Evelyn Pamer, Secretary

November '20

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
22 Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	23 Produce Distribution Day 7:00 Al-Anon	24 Office Closed	25 No Bible Study	26 Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving	27 Office Closed	28
29 Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.	30 7:00 Al-Anon	1 Office Closed 9:00 TOPS	2	<p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Carol's Days Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Secretary's Hours Mon, Wed, Thur. & Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</p>		

Next Week's Readings: Isa 64:1-9, Ps 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Cor 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

We will continue to stay in touch electronically by Email, Facebook and our website (ironriverlutherans.org) We are posting worship services on YouTube and are sending out regular mail for those who do not have electronic connections.
 Let us continue to keep in touch with one another by phone, text, and emails and continue to lift in prayer all who are being affected by this virus.



Guyann Lundeen, Ray Kangas, Lorin Wicklund, Rodney Lahti, Jane Jensen, Ken & Linda Watters, Jim DeRosia, Nancy Anderson, Gregg Levine, Darren Forsythe, Todd VanTil, Mark Hokkanen. *Remember those in nursing homes and assisted living who cannot have family, friends or volunteers visit them during this sad time.*

No Bible Study this week.

Pastor Carol invites you to drop off your Noisy Offering in person on Monday, November 30, from 10:00 a.m.-Noon. She will be sitting in Fellowship Hall with a Noisy Offering bucket and looks forward to greeting you.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! I will be away from the area from Tuesday, November 24-Saturday, November 28. I can be reached by phone if you should need to speak to me for any reason. Wishing everyone a nice Thanksgiving however you may be celebrating it this year. Pastor Carol

Connections with Creation

On Christ the King Sunday we are reminded that the highest and most holy form of power is not coercive and domineering but, rather, self-emptying and servant-like. Jesus is a king like no earthly king, and his ministry on earth revealed that God's reign operates with an ethic of care for the most vulnerable and most in need of compassion. Psalm 95 echoes the creation stories and acknowledges that God's reign includes care for the mountains, land, and seas, as well as for the earth's human inhabitants. The creation does not exist merely for our self-serving use at the expense of other creatures and their ecosystems. As God's appointed stewards of creation, we are called to exercise self-emptying and servant-like power in our relationship with the natural world. As we do unto the oceans, atmosphere, and soil, we do unto Christ. Let us learn anew to value the kind of power that Jesus demonstrated rather than the power of death and destruction.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 26, 2020
Iron River Community Center
PICKUP ONLY, 11am to 1pm

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

To Enjoy a
FREE

Traditional Thanksgiving Meal

Made Possible by the generous support and donations by area churches, individuals, and businesses.

For More Information or to Volunteer
Contact: Mary Benbow or Linda Poppinga
715-292-1888 or 715-372-8163



Are you leaving for warmer climates? Please make sure to Evelyn know if you are heading to your winter homes for the season. Evelyn and Pastor Carol cannot stress enough how important it is to have your correct contact information! Please keep us updated.

Thank you!!

The boxes of cards that WELCA has for sale has been replenished. If you would like to stop by the church and purchase boxes or single cards, they are available.



**November's Mission of the Month -
New Day Advocacy Center
Shelter**

WHO WE ARE-Established in January of 1983, New Day Advocacy Center is a safe haven for victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault. We are a non-profit organization, which provides emergency housing and food to victims and their children. Beyond performing crisis intervention and support services. New Day Advocacy Center is an important grassroots effort toward affecting the social change that is necessary to prevent and ultimately reduce family violence and sexual assault in the communities that we serve. We do this by providing an enhanced service provision; Self-Sufficiency Programming, Sexual Assault Intervention Program, Children's Programming, community education, training to professionals, and presentations to age specific (K-12) non-violence curriculum to classrooms in the area schools.

New Day Advocacy Center is our Mission of the Month. New Day is a place that offers shelter and assistance to those in dire need suffering from domestic abuse. New Day is located in Ashland. To check out more information please got to their website ndshelter.org. I want to encourage you to help with this support by adding a contribution to Our Savior's Mission of the Month. This has been harder to do when we are not together and passing around the Noisy Offering buckets. I hope you will keep this month's mission and all of our monthly mission projects going strong with thoughtful donations. This keeps us connected to issues both locally and in the greater church, Northwest Synod of WI and the ELCA. Thank you for your support as we keep this part of our Ministry of Our Savior's active and strong! Pastor Carol