

Christ the King Sunday, November 22, 2020

Greeting: God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day:

What church season starts next week? a) Lent b) Epiphany c) Pentecost d) Advent

Hymn “Covenant Prayer”

Call to Worship

Come, God is seeking to gather us together!

Like a shepherd searching for lost sheep, God calls us.

God has summoned us?

Dare we believe that God knows and welcomes us?

God reaches out to rescue all who have strayed.

Scattered, weak, and injured ones are drawn to God.

We come, in need of healing, seeking a blessing.

Our faith draws us here, in spite of our doubts.

Come, above all else, to worship and give thanks!

Make a joyful noise to the Creator of all worlds!

God’s steadfast love becomes real to us as we worship!

We are reminded of God’s immeasurable greatness.

Prayer of Invocation

Holy God, open your Word. Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, that our eyes may be enlightened and we may know the hope to which we have been called; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Ezekiel 34:11-24 *The Message*

“GOD, the Master, says: From now on, *I myself* am the shepherd. I’m going looking for them. As shepherds go after their flocks when they get scattered, I’m going after my sheep. I’ll rescue them from all the places they’ve been scattered to in the storms. I’ll bring them back from foreign peoples, gather them from foreign countries, and bring them back to their home country. I’ll feed them on the mountains of Israel, along the streams, among their own people. I’ll lead them into lush pasture so they can roam the mountain pastures of Israel, graze at leisure, feed in the rich pastures on the mountains of Israel. And I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep. I myself will make sure they get plenty of rest. I’ll go after the lost, I’ll collect the strays, I’ll doctor the injured, I’ll build up the weak ones and oversee the strong ones so they’re not exploited.

“And as for you, my dear flock, I’m stepping in and judging between one sheep and another, between rams and goats. Aren’t you satisfied to feed in good pasture without taking over the whole place? Can’t you be satisfied to drink from the clear stream without muddying the water with your feet? Why do the rest of my sheep have to make do with grass that’s trampled down and water that’s been muddied?

“Therefore, GOD, the Master, says: I myself am stepping in and making things right between the plump sheep and the skinny sheep. Because you forced your way with shoulder and rump and butted at all the weaker animals with your horns till you scattered them all over the hills, I’ll come in and save my dear flock, no longer let them be pushed around. I’ll step in and set things right between one sheep and another.

“I’ll appoint one shepherd over them all: my servant David. He’ll feed them. He’ll be their shepherd. And I, GOD, will be their God. My servant David will be their prince. I, GOD, have spoken.”

Psalm 100 *New Revised Standard Version*

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Prayers of Intercession

Our Shepherd satisfies our needs; in faith, let us pray to the Lord, saying,

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, our God, we pray for the church . . . (*silent prayers*)

As you have made Christ the head of all, help us to live faithfully as his body, continuing his mission in the world. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for the earth . . . (*silent prayers*)

Let all the earth make a joyful noise to you, a song of praise to the rock of our salvation, for you are coming to reveal a new creation. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for all nations . . . (*silent prayers*)

Drive out those wolves in sheep's clothing who abuse the weak and scatter the flock. Come and save us; bring justice and peace. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for this community . . . (*silent prayers*)

Help us to see Christ among our neighbors, serving those who are hungry and thirsty, naked and lonely, sick or in prison. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we pray for loved ones . . . (*silent prayers*)

Remember the people of your pasture: rescue the lost, bind up the broken, heal the sick, and feed those who hunger. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Loving Shepherd, lead and guide us – in green pastures and by still waters, in right paths and through dark valleys, until we feast with you in glory and dwell in your house forever. We join with Jesus in praying:

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. Amen.

Answer to the Question of the Day

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

Offering Prayer

Holy God, use us, and these gifts, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and honor your presence in all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Message "The True Shepherd" Rev. Joyce Rich

Commission and Blessing

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, serving faithfully
until Christ comes to welcome his people home.

May the grace of Christ surround us, **the love of God astound us,**
and the Holy Spirit keep us, **this day and forevermore.**

Amen. **And Amen.**

Hymn “Forever”

Announcements

Read For Next Week: Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Taught by Love: Worship Resources for Year A**, Lavon Bayler © 1998 United Church Press; and **Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2**, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press.*