

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Christ the King November 22, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 100)

Around the world this day, the universal church celebrates the *"The Reign of Christ."*

Christ Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek and the merciful, has been enthroned above all authority and power in this world and in the world that is to come.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth, serve the Lord with gladness come into his presence with singing.

God has placed everything under Christ's wounded feet, appointed the one who wore a crown of thorns as the supreme head of the church, his body.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, come into his courts with praise. Give thanks and praise his loving name!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Sovereign God, we confess we have given idols power over us, the idols of power and wealth, fame and security. We confess we have fallen into the ways of this world and have forgotten our kindred in Christ. We have lost sight of the reign of God here on earth, and instead have allowed the idols of the world to rule over us.

Forgive us. Call us into your reign, to declare you the One who has power over us because your power is love. Call us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to work for justice, show mercy, and love one another in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Jesus came to us not to reign as a king over us, but to serve us, and to show us the way of God is the way of love. Jesus said the first would be last and the last would be first. Jesus called us to become humble and serve one another, and that the most important commandment was to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. This is the way of our Sovereign. Go, knowing you are forgiven, and love and serve one another, especially our neighbors in need, as Christ serves us. Amen.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, whose fondness for humanity knows no limit, write your word upon our hearts, so that we need no scroll, no book, no script to know that you love us. Show us the power of your covenant, that you will be faithful to us, even when we fail to remain faithful to you. For the beauty of your word inscribed upon us, we pray, in the name of the one who became your new covenant with us, Jesus Christ, our redeemer. **Amen.**

READING Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 28-29; 31:31-34

In the fourth year of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² Take a scroll and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah until today. ³ It may be that when the house of Judah hears of all the disasters that I intend to do to them, all of them may turn from their evil ways, so that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

⁴ Then Jeremiah called Baruch son of Neriah, and Baruch wrote on a scroll at Jeremiah's dictation all the words of the LORD that he had spoken to him. ⁵ And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, "I am prevented from entering the house of the LORD; ⁶ so you go yourself, and on a fast day in the hearing of the people in the LORD's house you shall read the words of the LORD from the scroll that you have written at my dictation. You shall read them also in the hearing of all the people of Judah who come up from their towns. ⁷ It may be that their plea will come before the LORD, and that all of them will turn from their evil ways, for great is the anger and wrath that the LORD has pronounced against this people." ⁸ And Baruch son of Neriah did all that the prophet Jeremiah ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the LORD in the LORD's house.

²¹ Then the king sent Jehudi to get the scroll, and he took it from the chamber of Elishama the secretary; and Jehudi read it to the king and all the officials who stood beside the king. ²² Now the king was sitting in his winter apartment (it was the ninth month), and there was a fire burning in the brazier before him. ²³ As Jehudi read three or four columns, the king would cut them off with a penknife and throw them into the fire in the brazier, until the entire scroll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier. ²⁷ Now, after the king had burned the scroll with the words that Baruch wrote at Jeremiah's dictation, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: ²⁸ Take another scroll and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll, which King Jehoiakim of Judah has burned.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But

this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

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 INTERCESSION

God of life, we praise you for your abiding presence from generation to generation, blessing your people, strengthening us to lives of service, empowering us to witness. Hear the prayers we offer on behalf of your creation.

A brief silence.

Lord, fill the church with your law of love and make us your people, people freed to love and serve our neighbors. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, renew the earth and all that is in it, fashion our hearts with love for you and love for the glorious creation you have made. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, write your statutes on the hearts of our leaders, help them to see the primacy of your justice and your peace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, comfort the suffering and brokenhearted, grant that our suffering bring us closer in love and hope to those in pain. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, restore your people, send out your healing and comfort on those battling illness and disease. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, remember our sin no more and keep us steadfast in your way of love and service. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Lord, keep us mindful of the saints who have gone before us, spread your love and grace from generation to generation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that as we serve you now on earth, so we may one day rejoice with all the saints in your kingdom of light and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus spreads a table of blessing before us and feeds us with his very presence.

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 for the remembrance of me.

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.**

The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of strange reversals and healing mysteries, we thank you for giving us a Divine King who has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Enable us, when we are confronted by the vulnerability and suffering of others, to make those choices that will keep us in tune with your generous love. For your name's sake. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

It is not enough to acclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and King. Our mission in life is to make his kingdom a reality among us and to bring it to those around us by our words and deeds. The way to do this is to live as he lived: for others, in love and service.

May almighty God bless you for this task: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and to give shape to God's kingdom.

Thanks be to God.

Call to Worship: written by Bruce Prewer, and posted on **Bruce Prewer's Homepage**.

Confession and Forgiveness: Rev. Mindi and posted on the *Rev-o-lution* blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org>

Prayer of the Day: workingpreacher.org

Prayers of Intercession: Introduction and Conclusion from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, copyright © 2002

Post Communion Prayer: Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Homepage.

Benediction: from **Liturgies Alive, Models of Celebration**.

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