

**November 22, 2020**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost—Lectionary 34—Christ the King**  
**St. James Trinity Lutheran Church**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

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.**



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.

My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;

let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise

to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the

sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;

for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.

Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965  
 Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech  
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## 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.**

## Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

A <sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**C <sup>2</sup>Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

A <sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

**C <sup>4</sup>In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

A <sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**C <sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

A <sup>7a</sup>For the LORD is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

## Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:1-20

*The Message*

<sup>8:1-4</sup> Now, friends, I want to report on the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia province. Fierce troubles came down on the people of those churches, pushing them to the very limit. The trial exposed their true colors: They were incredibly happy, though desperately poor. The pressure triggered something totally unexpected: an outpouring of pure and generous gifts. I was there and saw it for myself. They gave offerings of whatever they could—far more than they could afford!—pleading for the privilege of helping out in the relief of poor Christians.

<sup>5-7</sup> This was totally spontaneous, entirely their own idea, and caught us completely off guard. What explains it was that they had first given themselves unreservedly to God and to us. The other giving simply flowed out of the purposes of God working in their lives. That's what prompted us to ask Titus to bring the relief offering to your attention, so that what was so well begun could be finished up. You do so well in so many things—you trust God, you're articulate, you're insightful, you're passionate, you love us—now, do your best in this, too.

<sup>8-9</sup> I'm not trying to order you around against your will. But by bringing in the Macedonians' enthusiasm as a stimulus to your love, I am hoping to bring the best out of you. You are familiar with the generosity of our Master, Jesus Christ. Rich as he was, he gave it all away for us—in one stroke he became poor and we became rich.

A The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46**

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**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:] <sup>31</sup>“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. <sup>32</sup>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, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>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; <sup>35</sup>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, <sup>36</sup>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.’ <sup>37</sup>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? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>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.’ <sup>41</sup>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; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>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.’ <sup>44</sup>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?’ <sup>45</sup>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.’ <sup>46</sup>And 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.**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Rick Biedermann**



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
 2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,  
 3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—  
 4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm-wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
 hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
 the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
 go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



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 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
 Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe      6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
 on this terrestrial ball              we at his feet may fall!  
 to him all majesty ascribe        We'll join the everlasting song  
 and crown him Lord of all.        and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, sts. 5–6  
 Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

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### Apostle's Creed

**C** 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

- P 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.)*
- P 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... **C Your mercy is great.**
- P 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...  
**C Your mercy is great.**
- P 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...  
**C Your mercy is great.**
- P 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 all those who are in any need. Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**
- P 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... **C Your mercy is great.**
- P Bring healing and wholeness to all who are hurting, sick and who have asked for our prayers, \_\_\_\_\_(names). We also pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially the families of Howard Linse and Bill Tumm. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Prayers: especially...

Bruce Steinke and Mary Lou Kaeding as well as those we name aloud or in our hearts.

- P We pray for our nation and the world during this time of pandemic. Protect the most vulnerable among us, and all who are currently sick or in isolation and health care workers, as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. We give thanks for the development of vaccines and pray for a quick and fair distribution. Give us courage to face this time with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**
- P 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... **C Your mercy is great.**
- P 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. **C Amen.**

## Peace

- P The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**C And also with you.**

## Offering

## Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C 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

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.**

## Dismissal

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

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**Our sympathy and prayers go out to all the families who have lost a loved one recently.**