Worship in the Home

Christ The King Sunday





"Come...Be a Part of Peace!"

2600 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach FL 32034 904.261.6306 www.poplcweb.org

November 22, 2020

In this time of world-wide crisis, we are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Use this resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship.



Set out and light a candle and you may wish to have a bowl of water as a reminder of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Service of the Word

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

Kneel, sit or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Devotional Music

You might now sing or read "Oh, Worship the King"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

https://youtu.be/u0a1Pq9avbg



Kyrie



Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy: Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.

The Prayer of the Day may be prayed.



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.



Then the first reading for this Sunday may be read, as follows.

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

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95:1-7a May be sung or read in response to the First Reading.



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 a- | bove all gods.

⁴In your hand are the caverns [|] of the earth;

the heights of the hills are | also yours.

⁵The sea is yours, ¹ for you made it, and your hands have molded ¹ 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

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 gloreat 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



Then the gospel reading may be read, as follows.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

The holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹"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. 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, ³³ and 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; ³⁵ 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, 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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**



SERMON—Pastor Ida Iverson

"SHEEPS AND GOATS"

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Today is Christ the King Sunday and it is the last Sunday of Lectionary Year A. As I wrote in my newsletter article, this was the year of the gospel of Matthew and we will not return to Matthew until Advent of 2022. All I can say is that I do hope that we will not be dealing with a crisis like the one that has plagued us this year. As I have found to be true over the many weeks since March, what had been written so long ago can be so relevant in our lives today.

The last two weeks, and again this week, we are dealing with apocalyptic lessons. We are discussing lessons that deal with the end times and the return of Jesus and what it will look like. Two weeks ago we heard how the bridegroom was delayed and only half the bridesmaids had been prepared with enough oil for their lamps to lead him and his bride to his father's house. Last week it was how one of three did not use the talents wisely that had been they had been given. Today we are confronted with the day of judgement and how we will be labeled as if we are sheep or goats.

One thing that is interesting as Jesus tells this parable to his disciples is that the sheep on the right and the goats on the left ask the same question: "Lord, when did we see hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or in prison? Neither group was aware of what they had done or not done for those Jesus called, *"the least of these who are members of my family."*

This is one of those lessons that the law and gospel becomes quite blatant. When we hear this lesson, and as we care for others it is just second nature to us, we do not think we are doing something out of the ordinary. I mean after all we are not looking for pats on the back or brownie points for what we have done. But...if we hear this lesson and we know that we have not reached out or are blind to the needs of others it makes us squirm a bit. Are you a sheep or a goat? I do not know about you, but I think that we at times are sheep and at other times we are goats or at least I know that I am. I do not mind helping people out. Take for example our monthly Mission Box that we use to reach out in the community, I have no problems contributing to it. Yet at home I have stack of appeals alongside my bills for all the organizations that want me to contribute to their worthy cause. I look at them and I know that they all are doing good for individuals, but if I gave to all of them I would end up being one of those who was in need. So am I sheep or a goat or both simultaneously, just as I am a saint and a sinner simultaneously?

I have been reading off and on a little booklet called <u>The Bible's Importance</u> for the Church Today. On Thursday morning I came across a paragraph that hit home for this week's lesson. It was what Luther had said about faith and works, and ow faith is embodied in good works and how they are a result of being accepted by God and inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit. It went on about what Luther had written about how eternal life is an outcome of the faith that gives birth to good works. It also pointed out how faith itself is a gift from God and not a human act by which we win God's favor and acceptance. It is like I have said before, God does not need our good works but our neighbor does. When we are reaching out to our neighbor, whoever that might be, we are being a sheep instead of a goat.

If we go back to when the question is asked, ""Lord, when did we see…?" Neither of them knew whether they were a sheep or a goat or if they should pat themselves on their back or squirm in their seats.

Maybe, just maybe, the message here is to remember that both you and I are not the judge. We are not the ones who will separate the sheep from the goats, but it is the Good Shepherd...Jesus who is the judge. After all, Jesus is the one who came to take our sins away so that we would have forgiveness. He is the one who is the vine, and we are the branches. He is the one who said that he goes to prepare a place for us in his father's house. He is the one who said, come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. He is the one who said that he is the way, the truth, and the life and that if you know him you will also know the Father and he is the one who said feed my lambs and tend and feed my sheep and then to follow him.

Yes, Jesus is our only hope, and we believe that he is the Good Shepherd and we belong to his flock. It is in that faith that we walk and believe we are destined for eternal life, as we listen to his voice and follow him to the kingdom that has been prepared from the beginning of time and will be forever without end. Amen.

Hymn of The Day

You might now sing or read "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Or, click the following link for audio presentation –

https://youtu.be/VYqLyTPw58o



Nicene Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

You may remain standing, kneel or be seated Then read the prayers of intersession, as follows.

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. We ask you to especially guard and keep these we name before you either silently or aloud:, Loretta Foster, Phil Wilner, David Dupree, Agnes Woleshin, Donna Cormier, Anne Marie and Kim Cole, Rosalie Wessel, Clay Chaffee, Lucy Creel, all those who serve in the military, Donna and Orv Lind, Lloyd Cotner, Tammy & Greg Olive, Baby William, Judy Harris, Elmer Wessel those dealing with the Covid-19 in any way, Tanya Adin and family at the death of her father Claude Sebastian

We give thanks for all the prayers you have answered by the power of the Holy Spirit. 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 with youth whether in the church, the school, the community, or their homes.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Lord of joy, be with Rene Pittman, Eben Opheim and Judith Harris-Pappas this week on their birthdays along with Garrett & Dawn Price, Rick & Jessica Miller, Bart & Donna Cormier and Glenn & Norma Beyer on their anniversaries. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Thank you for the 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 and 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

Let us pray as Jesus taught us,



Lords 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.

Blessing

Then speak the Blessing:

The blessing of the living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen.**



Sending Hymn

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" Click the following link for audio presentation that includes the verses to sing <u>https://youtu.be/s7OCs0d_4vM</u>



Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;

help the afflicted; honor all people;

Go in peace to love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

Readings of the Week:

Christ The King Sunday Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

First Sunday Of Advent Isaiah 64:1-9, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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IN NEED OF PRAYER

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Osprey Village

Lloyd & Jane Cotner - Room 3106 Katherine Holmberg- Room 101

<u>Savannah Grand</u> Jo Kruer - Room 332 Mary Jordan- Memory Care Unit



At Home

Emmy Lou Sorum / Billy Foster / Gertie Schreffler / Michele Pester / Clay Chaffee / Dorothy Schwager/ Ted Wessel / Lloyd Cotner/ Orv Lind / Donna Lind / Lloyd Cotner / Jo Kruer / Lucy Creel / Judy Harris / Ann Marie Cole / Donna Cormier / Loretta Foster

Tanya Adin & Family at death of father Claude Sebastian



Lt. Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, Valdez, AK (son of Glen & Norma Beyer) Lt. J.G. Eric Strommel, Kings Bay, Subbase, GA Lt. Col. Laura Laskowski, Air Force Intelligence, stationed in Maryland at Ft. Meade (daughter of Sue Whitman)

Components of an Effective Prayer		
" <u>A</u> "	ADORATION	Worship of God, First for who He is, Second for all His benefits
" <u>C</u> "	CONFESSION	If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from unrighteousness
" <u>T</u> "	THANKSGIVING	Gratitude to GOD for His blessings
" <u>S</u> "	SUPPLICATION	Expressing our petitions to GOD for individual and specific needs and desires

Keeping Our Prayer List Up to Date ...

Call our Church Office to add friends and family to our prayer list. We often can all use as many prayers as we can get.