

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.

WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.

"Individuals need to follow <u>healthy hygiene</u> practices, <u>stay at home</u> when <u>sick</u>, practice <u>physical distancing</u> to lower the risk of disease spread, and use a <u>cloth face covering</u>... in community settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. These universal precautions are appropriate regardless of the extent of mitigation needed." [The Center for Disease Control]

Therefore out of love for one another as part of the Body of Christ, we will all wear masks, stay six feet away from other households, sanitize our hands, refrain from singing, and speak together very quietly only for the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed. The louder we speak, the more potential viral spread there would be, even from behind masks.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HEARING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE FROM AN USHER.

HOLY COMMUNION

Christ the King Sunday – November 22nd, 2020 Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972 570-385-2657 * www.jerusalemlutheran.com FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDES

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

arr. Tim Fields

The bell rings calling us to worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \(\psi\) one God,

in whose image we are made,

who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

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.

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. Amen.

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches, wisdom and strength,

and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

The assembly is seated.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

The assembly stands for the gospel.

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; ⁴² for 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

Tanya Cartwright

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life #719 The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

- 1 Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan, above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
- 2 In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed thresholds dark with fears, from paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.

- From tender childhood's helplessness, 3 from human grief and burdened toil, from famished souls, from sorrow's stress, vour heart has never known recoil.
- 4 The cup of water giv'n for you still holds the freshness of your grace: vet long these multitudes to view the strong compassion in your face.
- 5 O Master, from the mountainside make haste to heal these hearts of pain; among these restless throngs abide; oh, tread the city's streets again;
- Till all the world shall learn your love, 6 and follow where your feet have trod; till glorious from your heav'n above shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850-1935, alt.

APOSTLES CREED

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking. We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

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

As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

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.

Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. In this week of Thanksgiving holiday, give us thankful hearts for food and all your blessings, and give wisdom that we and all people may celebrate safely. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages, including our own country where the political divide is deep. 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. 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.

Give strength to doctors, nurses, and medical staff, as they care for the wave of people who are critically ill from the coronavirus, and give comfort and healing to all who are sick... [PAUSE]. 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.

PASSING THE PEACE

We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone who cannot be here! Yes, now is the time to use our phones in church, on silent of course!

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: AUTUMN

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,

you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,

and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners

and to become food for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,

his life given for us

and his rising from the grave,

we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:

strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,

and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

During this time of the pandemic we are following ecumenical and health guidelines. The ushers will dismiss you by pew, and you will approach the altar by the center aisle (please allow a six-foot separation between households, as the blue tape on the floor indicates). Then partake of the Sacrament by going to three stations:

- 1. At the head of the center aisle, the pastor, who has thoroughly disinfected his/her hands, will drop the consecrated wafer into your outstretched palms. Then we ask that you maintain a six-foot distance as you make your way toward the second station.
- 2. At the closest small table, while only touching one glass, take either a prefilled one of wine from the trays or a prefilled glass of grape juice from the table. Then still maintaining your distance, go to the third station.
- 3. At the next table, marked with a sign inviting you to take and eat and drink, put your glass on the table for a moment, lower your mask, eat the wafer, pick up your glass and drink, raise your mask, drop the empty glass in the basket, and sanitize your hands.

Rejoice! Although this way of serving the Lord's Supper is different, by being careful we can still receive the Lord's Supper while keeping one another safe.

(10:30) ANTHEM

Let the Whole Creation Cry Jim and Linda Covert, duet

Jay Althouse

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,

in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

BLESSING

The assembly stands. The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing. 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.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Oh, Worship the King

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- Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above.
 Oh, gratefully sing God's power and love;
 our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
 pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.
- 2 The earth with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old; established it fast by a changeless decree, and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.
- 3 Your bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light, it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
- 4 Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor find you to fail; your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.
- O measureless might, ineffable love, while angels delight to hymn you above, the humbler creation, though feeble their lays, with true adoration shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission. Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord

David Cherwein

OFFERING

You may drop your offering in the plates as you leave.

If you are worshiping at home, please mail your offering to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA. Or you can drop it through the slot in the door at the back, office entrance of the church building.

To avoid crowding and therefore lessening the six-foot physical distance, we ask you to leave starting from the front pews to the back. If you and others feel comfortable, you can continue fellowship conversation in the lobby and outside with masks from a safe distance.

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MINISTRY NEWS

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Nancy Cooper, David and Angela Weiser, Faye Sausser, Kim O'Donnell, Leslie Wagner, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner, Charlotte Moyer

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Direnzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Steficheck, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Jerry Stoutland, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Gemma Geary

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Karen Ochenrider	Lloyd Wertz
Cantor(s)	Lou Messina	Jim & Linda Covert
Guides	Deb Reed	Jim Zeiglebein
	Joy Heffner	Don Boyer
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Gary Reager
Acolyte	•	Marla Freiwald
Altar Guild	Cheryl Miller & Karen Dudley	
Counters	Lou Messina, Rob Baessler, & Janet Sattizahn	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Lou Messina	Rob Baessler
Cantor(s)	Brenda Searle	Brenda Searle
Guides	Bill Shay	Jane Mahoney
	Faith Batz	Frank Mahoney
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Gary Reager
Acolyte	Ellayna Boyer	Jillian Gipe
Altar Guild	Cheryl Miller & Karen Dudley	
Counters	Lou Messina & Rob Baessler	

WEEKLY NEWS

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dorothy & Isaac Gehrig and Phyllis Trapani, by the Trapani family.

THE FLOWERS IN THE FLOOR VASES are to the Glory of God, in loving memory of Walter Lengel on his birthday in Heaven and our wonderful Grandparents, by the Bromwell, Edwards, Miller & Fehr families.

2021 JERUSALEM MINISTRY PLANS can now be picked up on the table by the front door.

CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Thursday, November 26th, Friday, November 27th, and Monday, November 30th due to the Thanksgiving holiday and administrator vacation. Counters can still report in on Monday, November 30th.

GOD'S BARNYARD SALE STARTING NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020. There are two ways to be involved in God's Barnyard this year.

• First, you can make an online donation to fulfill Jerusalem's goal to "purchase" a Family Farm. Together as a congregation, we can support the start of a family farm with animals, farming tools, seeds and

- agricultural training for a family living in poverty. You can find the link to our donation page at jerusalemlutheran.com. Look for upcoming events and click on God's Barnyard. That will lead you to a spot to CLICK which will take you directly to our secure donation page. You can even track our progress on that page!
- The second way to be involved in God's Barnyard is to utilize the God's Barnyard Order Form that can be found in the Winter Newsletter. (You can also take a look at the order form at our website.) Make your selection on the order form and mail it, along with a check made out to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, to 252 Dock St., Schuylkill Haven PA 17972. Or just drop it off at the church office. We have some ornaments and cards to match your order that can be obtained at your request. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Covert.

PLEASE SIGN-UP! November 29th is the first Sunday in Advent; the season preparing us for the birth of Jesus. We need volunteers to light the Advent Wreath during the 8 and 10:30 services. A sign-up sheet is on the sign-up table for individuals or small groups to volunteer to do the lighting!

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 at 9:15 am, with a snow date or COVID date of December 13 (or the closest possible Sunday thereafter). The key items of business... through computer video (Zoom). ALSO, if worship would have to be suspended for the pandemic, please tell the Sunday guides (ushers) if you have Zoom, in case we need to hold an entirely virtual annual meeting.

WE WILL DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS ON DECEMBER 13, immediately after the 10:30 service and will be serving pizza for lunch in the social hall. By following the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, we feel we can do this safely. If you are able to join us, please see the sign-up sheet in the lobby. We will also need help on January 3, 2021 at 11:30 am to remove the decorations.

CANCELLATION OF SERVICES DUE TO THE PANDEMIC &

WEATHER. If circumstances arise that worship and Sunday school need to be cancelled, the news will be announced on Facebook, the church website (www.jerusalemlutheran.com), and on the office answering machine (570-385-2657). Please help us pass the word to the others!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY 8:00am Worship

10:30am Worship

FRIDAY 11:00am Young Adult Communion and lunch