

# **Sunday, November 22, 2020 Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

*Pastor Gary Mikkelson*

## ***CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY***

**Music – Angie Johnson**

**Livestream -Rod Scholten**

**Lay Reader – Gene Sandager**



### **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

**C: AMEN**

**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 promise prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

**C: AMEN**

### **OPENING SONG "ABOVE ALL"**

**Above all powers,  
Above all kings,  
Above all nature and all created things,  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,  
You were here before the world began.**

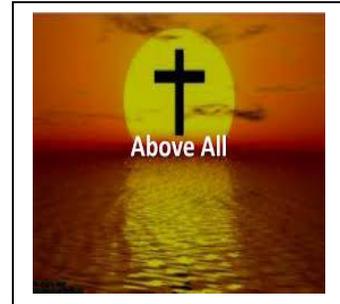
**Above all kingdoms,  
Above all thrones,  
Above all wonders the world has ever known,  
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,  
There's no way to measure what you're worth,  
Crucified  
Laid behind the stone, you lived to die, rejected and alone.**

**Like a rose trampled on the ground,  
You took the fall, and thought of me above all.**



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### **GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you

### **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**

## **SCRIPTURES**

### **FIRST READING – EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24**

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As 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. I 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. I 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I 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.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

**R: Word of God, Word of life.      C: Thanks be to God**

### **PSALM 95:1-7a**

**R:** Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**C: Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

**R:** For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

**C: In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

**R:** The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

**C: Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

**R:** 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**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I 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, so 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God 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, far 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**R: Word of God, Word of life      C: Thanks be to God**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** **BLESSING OF THE QUILTS**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia!”**

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior; open now your saving word.**

**Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.**

**Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

### **GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 25:31-46**

‘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. 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, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 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; 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, 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.” 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? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” 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.” 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; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 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.” 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?” 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.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

### **SERMON**

#### **SONG OF THE DAY “WONDERFUL MERCIFUL SAVIOR”**

**Wonderful merciful Savior,  
Precious redeemer and friend  
Who would have thought that a lamb could,  
Rescue the souls of man,  
Oh you rescue the souls of man.**

**You are the one that we praise,  
You are the one we adore,  
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,  
Oh our hearts always hunger for.**

Counselor comforter keeper,  
Spirit we long to embrace,  
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost our way.  
Oh we've hopelessly lost the way.

You are the one that we praise,  
You are the one we adore,  
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,  
Oh our hearts always hunger for,

Almighty infinite Father,  
Faithfully loving your own,  
Here in our weakness you find us falling before your throne.  
Oh were falling before your throne.

You are the one that we praise,  
You are the one we adore,  
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for.  
Oh our hearts always hunger for.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** P: Hear us, O God    C: Your mercy is great.

### **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 and ever. AMEN

### **BLESSING**

### **SENDING SONG "STANDING ON THE PROMISES"**

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,

**When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.**

**Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
Standing on the promises of God.**

**Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;  
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**Standing on the promises I cannot fall,  
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,  
Standing on the promises of God.**

**Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior,  
Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.**

**DISMISSAL**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE @BETHLEHEM**

**Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> @7:00 pm.**

### **BLESSING OF HOMES**

Epiphany marks the occasion of a Christian tradition of "Chalking the doors." It is a practice where we dedicate our year to God asking His blessing on our homes and on all who live, work, or visit us there. The tradition is to take any color chalk and write the following above your main entrance to your home: 20+C+M+B+21. The letters have two meanings: they represent the Magi-Caspar, Malchior and Balthazar who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, "Christus Mansionem benediat"-"May Christ bless the house." The +signs represent the cross and the 20 at the beginning and end mark the year.

For Epiphany, this year the deacons will be putting together home blessing kits for you to take and bless you own home. We are asking for a free will donation for the kits which will be used for ministry. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Diana Buffington at 962-3778 or 920-2506.

### **SANFORD LUVERNE HOSPICE 2020 TREE OF LIGHTS**

**Donation forms are available in the narthex. Remember your loved ones this holiday season with a light on one of the area Tree of Lights.**

**NO public lighting ceremonies. \$5.00 per name.**

**Names must be received by Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**For more info., call Sanford Luverne Hospice @507-283-1805**

### **SHARE**

Distribution for **SHARE** program will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in December.

Because of COVID we are unable to provide drop off boxes at local churches.

You may mail your donation to: **SHARE**, PO. Box 792, Luverne, MN. 56156

### **POINSETTIAS**

If you would like to share a poinsettia for the Christmas Season in memory of a loved one, please contact the church office @962-3270. Deadline Dec. 18.

Names will be listed at Candlelight Service and on Bethlehem face book, live stream.



### **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. church service.**

**Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30-7:30 pm. Confirmation Pictures & Practice**

**BLCW QUILTS FOR SALE: \$35.00, make checks payable to BLCW.**