



## St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

Christ the King + Saturday, November 19, 2022

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.*

### 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.**

You are the treasured people of the LORD,

**a people holy to the LORD our God.**

Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.

**Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

One does not live by bread alone,

**but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.**

### SCRIPTURE SONG

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe;

just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.

Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

For you alone are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and worship before you,

for your just and holy works have been revealed.

**Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

## FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 23:1-6

*Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>1</sup>Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup>I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 46

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

<sup>2</sup>**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

<sup>3</sup>though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

<sup>4</sup>**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the break of day.

<sup>6</sup>**The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth melts away. R**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

<sup>8</sup>**Come now, regard the works of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

<sup>9</sup>behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

<sup>10</sup>**“Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## **SECOND LESSON: Colossians 1:11-20**

*An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.*

A reading from Colossians.

<sup>11</sup>May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

<sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!**

**Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!**

Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.

**Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!**

**Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!**

## GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43

*Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>33</sup>When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>¶Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." ¶ And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup>and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup>He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,**

**known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,**

**to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you,

forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

strengthen you in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**Amen**

## **PEACE**

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*We give our offerings in praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ and for the sake of Jesus' ongoing mission and ministry in this world. We have been entrusted to carry out this mission Jesus' name, bringing the good news of Jesus to the people of this community and around the world. Please, take a minute of your time to make an electronic gift through the St. Paul's Website [www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html](http://www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html). Please consider making this gift a recurring gift, and look for ways to grow in your giving for the sake of Christ's mission through this congregation. You may also mail your offering to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 445 Old Post Rd., Edison NJ 08817.*

## OFFERTORY

Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth; yours the anointing, the radiant worth.

**Ours the rejoicing for spirits aflame; ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.**

**Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;**

**yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.**

Let us pray.

God, our Creator,

**you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

We pray for your church. Embolden denominations and faith-based organizations in creative and collaborative ministries and increase our work for the sake of the gospel.

Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth. Protect waterways from pollution and animal habitats from destruction. Guide us in careful stewardship of waters, plant life, and animals. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Instill in every leader's heart a desire for justice and peace. Support the work of international collaborations that seek the goals of health and joy for all people, especially Lutheran World Relief and ELCA World Hunger. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who are undermined or oppressed. Amplify the voices of the unheard and break open stubborn systems of injustice. Bring about your righteousness and fill us all with your redeeming light. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who are sick in body, mind or spirit; all those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, and all those whose names we speak out loud, in our hearts or by listing online. Give to all the healing and peace found only in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. Guide our pastor, vicar, council members and leaders in discernment, and nurture new leaders with fresh ideas. Give this congregation a spirit of discipleship and service. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have died in the faith (*especially*). Console us who mourn and comfort us with the beautiful promise of life in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WALKING AT ROOSEVELT PARK.** Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Call your friends and put on your walking shoes and meet at the skating rink at Roosevelt Park and enjoy fellowship and walk around the park.

**GRIEFSHARE.** GriefShare meets Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. GriefShare is a 13-week program that gathers a group together to journey through grief.

## ADVENT EVENT SCHEDULE

Throughout the season of Advent, we will gather for fellowship and prayer fun as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's arrival. Mark your calendars and invite your friends to be part of our community this Advent-Christmas season.

- **Sunday, December 4, 11:30 a.m. Advent Cookie Walk.** Share your favorite holiday cookies and baked goods with your friends and neighbors.
- **Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. Youth and Caregivers Advent Coloring Night.** This is a chance for our caregivers and those they care for to enjoy an activity together, and for caregivers to get together and support each other.
- **Tuesday, December 13, at 11:30 a.m. Senior Lunch.** Bring your lunch and reconnect with new and old friends. Topic: Your favorite Christmas stories.
- **Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 p.m. Carol Sing.** Come and sing your favorite carols, games and snacks. If you would like to be part of the Carol Sing Choir, see Stefeny. If you would like to be part of a band of carolers to sing to our shut-in members, see Pastor Jim.
- **Saturday, December 17, 9:00 a.m. Christmas Decorating.** Deck the Sanctuary with greens, set up the Christmas tree and enjoy all the fun that comes with preparing our ministry center for Christmas!
- **Saturday, December 17, 5:30 p.m. Sunday school Christmas Program.** Our Sunday school children remind of the meaning and joy of Christmas as part of our Saturday Worship.
- **Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 p.m. Longest Night.** Our annual Blue Christmas service creates a space for people who are grieving and suffering this holiday season to worship, pray and receive God's gifts of faith, hope and love, even on the darkest day of the year.

## BIBLE STUDY.

**NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK! HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

**DAILY PRAYER.** Daily prayer is one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to keep us in faith. Here are two ways to make daily prayer part of your life: a daily service of morning prayer and a daily service of night prayer.

**Morning Prayer:** Start each day (Monday through Saturday) with a brief service of Morning Prayer. This service is available as an audio file on the [St. Paul's Website](#) and the St. Paul's Facebook each morning. You can listen and pray along from your home or take it with you as you exercise or commute.

**Night Prayer:** End your day in prayer and fellowship. This ongoing prayer group meets **on Zoom each night at 9:00 p.m.** to share what has been happening in their day, to let go of each day's trouble and to participate in a brief service of night prayer. Zoom log info: Meeting ID = 401 244 599 + Password: 042662

## **BLESSING**

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.

**Amen**

May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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