

Ascension Lutheran Church

Christ the King Sunday **November 22, 2020**

Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

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.

PRELUDE

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, $\text{\textt{T}}$ one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

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

Silence for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,

and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of $\text{\textt{T}}$ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

HYMN #842**"Oh, Worship the King"**

Verses 1-2

1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
 2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
 3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
 4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
 5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,

Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
 Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
 while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
 the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - till in the dew and the rain.
 our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
 with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.
 Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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 95:1-7a

We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)

- 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 above all gods.
- ⁴In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.
- ⁵The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded 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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

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, ³³and 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; ³⁵for 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

The Rev. Christina Auch

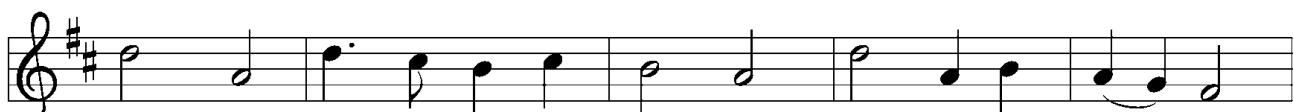
HYMN #415

"Father Most Holy"

Verses 1-2



1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der; Je - sus, our
 2 Trin - i - ty bless-ed, u - ni - ty un - shak - en; good - ness un -
 3 Mak - er of all things, all thy crea-tures praise thee; all for thy
 4 Lord God Al - might-y, un - to thee be glo - ry, one in three



Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing; Spir - it of com - fort,
 bound-ed, ver - y God of heav - en, light of the an - gels,
 wor - ship were and are cre - at - ed; now, as we al - so
 per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed! Glo - ry we of - fer,



ad - vo - cate, de - fend - er, light nev - er wan - - ing.
 joy of those for - sak - en, hope of all liv - - ing.
 wor - ship thee de - vot - ly, hear thou our voic - - es.
 praise thee and a - dore thee, now and for - ev - - er.

Text: Latin hymn, 10th cent.; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.

Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris Antiphoner, 1681

Text from *The English Hymnal* outside the USA © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
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, 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 into hell.**

**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

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.

Silence for reflection.

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on those who are lonely or isolated, suffering from illness or disease, and on caregivers and those who are grieving. We pray especially for those we name aloud now or silently in our hearts...

Grant Adcock (Bob and Vicki Jones' grandson), **Kathy** Backof (Donna Lilly's friend), **Dan** Birch (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Carolyn** Blitz (Bill Bridges' friend), **Kathy** Bradley (friend of Bill Bridges), **Cody** Bryant (Bob Bryant's grandson), **Chris** Carman (Judy Bridges' friend), **Martha** Cash (Bill Bridge's friend), **Edna** Cooper (Bill Bridges Aunt), **Joan** Craig (Clarann Schiavo's friend), **The Davenport Family** (Dave and Priscilla Williams friends), **Charles and Mary** Degree (Karen Long's friends), **Saher** Degree (Gail Sherman's friend), **Gloria** Dellinger (Greg Blalock's aunt), **Charles** Duval (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Tim** Farmer (Pastor Christina and Jamie's friend), **Hunter** Ferguson (Daryl Cook's granddaughter's husband), **Avan** Fields (Carol Berger's friend), **Ann** Fitzsimmons (Steve and Jenny White's friend), **Mike** Greene (Gail Sherman's friend), **Markye and Carl** Greenwald (DeBell's friends), **Rena** Huffman (Jim Wilson's sister-in-law), **Michael** Huntsinger (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Joe** Hutchinson (William Coyne's friend), **Patti** Jenkins (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Steve** Jolly (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mark** Kent (Majorie Olsen's son), **Rachel** Kidwell (Dave William's niece), **The Ledbetter Family** (Matthew Lilly's friends), **Bryan** Legrand (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Jim** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Brenda** Lowery (Gail Sherman's friend), **Pam** Lucas (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Eva** McCombs (Sandra Waldrop's mother), **Bernice** McDaniels (Dean Davis' daughter), **Janice** McGoven (Eleanor Hendricks' sister), **Sheri Dawn** Mack (Relative of Karen Hubbard), **Maribeth** Norris Mies (Carol Berger's cousin), **Wanda** Mullinax (Edith Kelly's niece), **Teresa** Olsen (Marjorie Olsen's daughter-in-law), **Bob** Patzer (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Linda** Patzer (Carol Berger's sister), **Margaret** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's mother), **Liz and Ron** Dal Poggetto (Judy Bridges' friends), **Tommy** Price (Edith Kelly's nephew), **Bonnie** Reidy (Dave and Jennie Lambert's friend), **Beth** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Harold** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Lola** Ritchie (Rose Cook's mother), **Shannon** Sellers (Libby

Stone's cousin), **Jean** Tesseneer (Bill Bridges friend), **Pam** Unger (Willi and Ray Lacy's friend), **Lisa** Upton (worshiping on line with ALC), **The Vonbehren Family** (Barbara Davis' cousins), **Edith** Walker (Allen and Lisa Philbeck's friend's mother), **Molly and Darryl** Waterstraat (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Alfie** Welch (Renee Buchanan's brother), **Christopher** Willever (David Williams' grandson), **Mary Ann** Woolley (Sandra Waldrop's aunt), **Denise and Savannah** Yount (Sandra Waldrop's friends)

Members: **Dean** Davis, **Lin** Washburn, **Dot** Paul, **Bob** Bryant, **William** Coyne, **Jim** Wilson, **Bobbie** Johnson, **Gerald** Washburn, **Ray** Valentine, and **Lucinda** Wallen.

In Undergraduate College: **Emma** Auch, **Brooke** Buchanan, **Samantha** Hoffman, **Jacob** Stone, **Catherine Mae** Lilly

Those Awaiting Arrival of Children: Kristen and Becca Gillespie (daughter and daughter-in-law of Joanna Gillespie)

Ministry Partners: Hospice Cleveland County staff, leaders and those they serve.

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 OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace on video or say: "Peace be with you" from wherever you are or type it in the chat or comments.

OFFERING

*Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.*

*Or text **844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.*

Or mail your regular tithe or offering to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

OFFERTORY

“Doxology”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 praise him, all creatures here below;
 praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
 praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of
your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

SENDING OF HOME COMMUNION

When our congregation gathered for Holy Communion with all the saints from every time and place, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and the love shown us in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The holy meal of the Lord's supper was shared. Now we share this Word of life, and this bread and cup of blessing, that we may share in these same gifts and be strengthened by the Christian community, even though we gather separately for a time.

Gathered at the Lord's table, our congregation remembered with thanksgiving that "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."

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This bread and cup, shared in our community of faith, are here given for you.

Share the bread, saying, "The body of Christ, given for you." And share the wine or grape juice, saying, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine on us with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon us with favor and ☩ give us peace.

Amen.

HYMN #439**"Soon and Very Soon"**

Verses 1-2

A single-line musical staff in G clef and common time. It consists of eight measures of music, ending with a short vertical dash at the end of the eighth measure.

1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon

we are goin' to see the King,

A single-line musical staff in G clef and common time. It consists of eight measures of music, ending with a short vertical dash at the end of the eighth measure.

soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

we are goin' to see the King,

A single-line musical staff in G clef and common time. It consists of eight measures of music, ending with a short vertical dash at the end of the eighth measure.

soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon

we are goin' to see the King.

A single-line musical staff in G clef and common time. It consists of eight measures of music, ending with a short vertical dash at the end of the eighth measure. A bracket above the staff indicates it covers Verses 1, 2, and 3.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4

A single-line musical staff in G clef and common time. It consists of eight measures of music, ending with a short vertical dash at the end of the eighth measure. The lyrics "Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah" are written below the staff.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coronavirus Response: Our sanctuary remains closed, but the fellowship hall is available for small groups (less than 25) with social distancing and masks required. Contact Debby in the church office for more information.

Prayer Concerns: Please call or email the office or text Pastor Christina at 704-472-7783 to update prayer requests. You may leave a voicemail but please provide the spelling of any names, and your relationship to the person being prayed for.

Please continue your tithes and offerings. Make a one time or recurring gift using the website or the GivePlus app on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #47161. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Prayer over Pledge Cards written by The Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel Diocesan Bishop Diocese of Olympia. Used by permission.

Ascension Lutheran Church

PO Box 266 Shelby, NC 28151

Ascensionlutheranshelby.com

Facebook.com/ascensionlutheranshelbync

704-487-5679

The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor 704-472-7783

Debby Chaffin, Secretary

Steve White and Cathy Hubbard, Organists

Rose Cook, Financial Secretary

Daryl Cook, Council President 704-418-3103