



ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, November 22, 2020

Pastor Mike Pretzer

St. John's Lutheran Church in Richardton

President: Greg Johnson 974-3497

Treasurer: Carmen Bohn 974-3925

Organist:

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Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Introduction

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.

The Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

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Gathering Hymn

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

#855

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

We 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.

The Word

First Reading

Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 95:1-7a

- ¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
- ²**Let 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.
- ⁴**In 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.
- ⁶**Come, 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

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

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 great 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand to welcome the Gospel

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

[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.”

Dismissal

L: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Prayer Concerns at St. John's Lutheran Church

FOR HEALING, STRENGTH & GOOD HEALTH:

Harrison Job Magstadt & his parents Haley & Nathan Magstadt

Kristin Johnson

James Hauter (Lynn Johnson's Father)

Wellde Heinle- Recurrence of cancer

Arlyne Magstad

Shirley Kitzan

Dee Homelvig -Chemotherapy

Emmalou Lavine (Armin's Sister)

Holly (Cancer)

Pam (Cancer)

Family of Gaité Gebhardt

Steve and Kayla Olson and unborn son Luke

Lakin Dvorak

Marie (Lorraine's Sister- Cancer)

Announcements

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service – Wednesday, November 25th

On Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00 pm MST via Facebook premiere from St. John Lutheran Church in Dickinson you can participate in a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. The service is called, Thanksgiving Eve * 6 Toasts * Origin Stories, which is based on 15 Toasts from the book, The Art of Gathering. Because gathering for holiday meals is really tough right now, and with

such divided political views around tables, the ELCA pastors from Dickinson, Belfield, and Dunn County are proposing to “practice Thanksgiving” to show a faithful way to gather around tables and have meaningful conversation.

The appointed lesson is the story of God leading the people through the wilderness. God predicts correctly the people will forget their origin story is actually the work of God and not their own doing. During the service each worship leader will tell some kind of personal origin story in about 300 words (around 3 minutes). It might be a story from an earlier generation, why and how they settled where they did, some formative story from childhood, or how they came to be at the place where they are now. After each story is told, we will “toast” and sing a verse of a song.

The Thanksgiving Eve Service can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/st.johnlutheranchurch.9>

Start time is 7:00 pm. **For offering, you are encouraged to make a donation to the ELCA World Hunger Fund.**

Badlands Ministries Camp Christmas Event

Due to the pandemic, Badlands Ministries cannot hold its annual Camp Christmas Event at camp. However, they are planning a Camp Christmas Event in a fun virtual format. **They are imagining an entertaining Christmas themed variety-style event hosted by Badlands Ministries staff with live musical performances, pre-recorded music (from local choirs and performers), funny camp stories, Christmas trivia, and more.**

Therefore, they are reaching out to congregations to see if there are any choirs or musical groups that would like to perform a Christmas song or two for this event. If so, they would have the option of either performing together live from wherever they are at (with someone in their group live recording their performance with a phone, laptop, or other device which would be shown over Zoom) OR they could pre-record their song(s) and send it to the camp in advance. **They would also be open to including folks sharing Christmas poems, dramatic readings, or Christmas themed skits.**

The original event was scheduled for Saturday, December 5th from 1pm until 3pm. They are still looking at having the event that day, either from 1pm-3pm or moving it to 7pm-9pm that evening.

Please let Badlands Ministires know if you are interested in performing either live or via a pre-recording on December 5th. Please contact the Associate Director, Christine Moe at christine.moe@hotmail.com or call her at 701-290-6575.

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