

First Lutheran Church, Findlay OH
November 22, 2020

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Announcements/ Prelude *O Worship the King* WYRTZEN

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The assembly may be seated.

Gathering Song

Rejoice, for Christ Is King!

Rejoice, for Christ is king! Your Lord and king adore;
rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore:

Refrain

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n: *Refrain*

Greeting

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

Kyrie Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.

Glory to God

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest!
Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord, in the midst of hardship, you bring comfort; in sorrow, you bring joy; in fear, you bring faith; in division, you bring unity. Come near all your beloved children today: guard us, guide us, and fill us with your love and peace.

WORD

We hear together God's Word for us today.

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A reading from Ezekiel

¹¹For thus 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.

Bible Acclamation

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the book of Matthew

³¹When 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 Word of the Lord.

Sermon Moment

The assembly is seated.

Hymn of the Day *Beautiful Savior*

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee,
truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing

Apostles' Creed

We confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed

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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Hymn *Hear Our Prayer*

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;
incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

that the gospel may take root in us and spread everywhere; [Pause]
that the earth may be restored and protected; [Pause]
that peace and justice may flow within us and from us,
that all nations and those in authority may serve and shield the vulnerable,
that our community may be a light to the world. [Pause]

We pray for the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, and lonely,
for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit,
for First Lutheran Church, and those on our prayer list; [Pause]
for the faithful departed, who have joined the church triumphant. [Pause]

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. [*Please bow your heads and pray quietly...*]

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

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

