



Reign of Christ

50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women


November 22, 2020 - 10:00am

On this last day of the church year we gather day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, even as 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.

As a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we also celebrate today the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

WELCOME – *In the parking lot, tune your radio to 88.1 FM.*

Online, find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/christlutheranroanoke/>

 = *Lightly tap your car-horn*

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

For the vocations of pastor, deacon, and bishop, for those who lead churches and faith communities, for those whose life work is evangelical witness in word and deed, **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For 50 years of women's ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its predecessor bodies, **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For the work of women who serve as seminary professors and staff, chaplains and administrators, those who work for nonprofits, and those who are retired from paid ministries, **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For women who are discerning a call to serve Christ's church, for those who are in candidacy, and for those in their internship congregations, **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For the witness of Mary Magdalene, the dance of Miriam, the hospitality of Lydia, the prayer of Mary, the discernment of Deborah, the courage of Rahab, and the faithfulness of all our biblical foremothers, **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

For witness of women in this congregation, Christ Lutheran Church, the Virginia Synod, and for the ordained women who have inspired those of us who gather today, especially... **we rejoice and give thanks to God.**

Gracious and loving God, we rejoice and give you thanks for your power on display throughout time and place, calling all kinds of people to be witnesses to your grace and power. We celebrate how the Spirit has blessed your church through the work of women and girls, including in this time and place. Guide us, as your people, into welcoming your prophets and teachers among us and hearing Christ's good news through them. With gratitude, we pray. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *For All the Faithful Women*

ELW #419



1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in days of old,
2 O God, for saints and ser - vants, those named and those un - known,
Last All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.
in whom through all the a - ges your light of glo - ry shone,
All praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.
we of - fer glad thanks-giv - ing and fer - vent prayer we raise
With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your pow'r to save.
that, faith - ful in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.
we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

Text © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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. 

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Prayed by The Rev. Dr. Janet L. Ramsey)*

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. Continue to raise up girls and women to serve Christ's church and strengthen all your people in the vocations to which you call us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ephesians 1:15-23 *(Read by The Rev. Phyllis Wilkerson Diamond)*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. 📣

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:31-46

[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.”



Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. 📣

SERMON

Silence for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

ELW #659

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928

Text and music © 1977 Scripture In Song, c/o Integrity's Hosanna Music (ASCAP),
c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Prayed by The Rev. Kathy Hull)*

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.

A brief silence.

We give you thanks for the all the women who have nurtured us in faith, whether in our families of birth or in the family of God. Today we give special praise for those who lead us as bishops, pastors, and deacons. Empower us all to seek justice for women and girls in our own country and around the world who are ostracized from their communities for any reason or treated as less than children of God. 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.**

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.**

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 our prayers for those among us who suffer in any way this day... 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.**

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

*Greet those in your vehicle with these or similar words: "Peace be with you."
Share the peace with others by waving and turning on your windshield wipers.*



GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: we give you fullest thanks and praise our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and pain.

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.

Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death, and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. 

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the sacrament of our risen Lord's body and blood.

**You may use any bread or crackers and wine or juice.*

**If others are with you, you may take turns sharing the bread and wine. Eat or give the bread, saying: "The body of Christ given for you." Drink or give the wine, saying: "The blood of Christ shed for you."*

**You may trace the sign of the cross on the forehead of children who do not yet commune and speak these or similar words to them: "The Lord bless you and keep you today and always."*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy and healing God: In this meal, you have given us your very self to eat, and you have made us one in Christ: there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female. As we go forth from this place, take us by the hand and free us from fear, that we might sing your praise with our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May the joy of God's freedom cause your spirit to dance; May the presence of God's peace bring wholeness to your body and mind. May God give you blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe. In the name of God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

ELW #674



- 1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God. 

If you have brought a monetary offering, you may place it in an offering basket as you leave the parking lot. You may also give securely on our homepage:

www.christlutheranroanoke.org.

Serving Today

Preacher: Cindy Keyser

Presider: David Skole

Musicians: Kim Mucha, Warren Burger, Cary Mangus

Technical Support: Josh Skole

Parking Attendants: Shelley Campbell, Georgia Schmitt, Fiona Schulz, Sue Vail

Parts of this service from elca.org/50yearsofordainedwomen and from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Songs used with permission: One License #A-712581 & CCLI License # 3124891.

Scriptural readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.



GREETINGS FROM CHRIST LUTHERAN'S CLERGYWOMEN

Our Pastors

The Rev. Linda Mitchell Motley

Ordained: May 19, 1990

Pastor at CLC: July 8, 1990-October 31, 1993

Dear Friends in Christ,

Hello from Panama, where my husband Billy and I retired two years ago. We live in a small coastal town on the Pacific side and are enjoying it and retirement very much.

It is hard to believe I arrived at Christ 30 years ago, in 1990, fresh out of seminary. As the first woman pastor at Christ, I was not sure what to expect, but of course you welcomed me with open arms, with enthusiasm and trust. It was one of the great privileges of my career to serve with you and to participate in all the vibrant ministries Christ reaches out with to this day. One of the greatest gifts you gave me is learning that ministry can be fun! Thank you, for that lesson in particular served me well through the years.

And thank you for celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women. What a joyous occasion! I send you much love, along with prayers for peace, healing and hope in these trying days.

In Christ,

Linda Mitchell Motley

The Rev. Robin Ferree

Ordained: May 14, 1994

Pastor at CLC: June 1, 1994-March 31, 1997

It's been 50 years since the ordination of women! In 1968, when I first spoke of my sense of call I was quickly told that women weren't eligible for ordination. In 1980 I was a guest seminarian at the WELCA 10th anniversary celebration of the ordination of women. In 1994 I was ordained and began serving as your associate pastor! What a journey and what a privilege it's been to be an ordained woman in the ELCA! Thank you for all you taught me and for being a vital part of my ordination journey!

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Robin Ferree

The Rev. Cynthia Keyser

Ordained: June 19, 1999

Pastor at CLC: August 1, 2010 – Present

How blessed I am to be counted among the women ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! I could not be more grateful to serve as one of your pastors at Christ Lutheran for the past ten years and counting. Your support of my family and me has been an amazing gift. As a congregation, we have grown in faith as we have shared the ups and downs of life and ministry together (especially this year!). I look forward to the ways we will continue to share God's love and grace in the coming years.

In Peace,

Pastor Cindy

Our Interns

The Rev. Rachel Meier Laughlin

Ordained: June 13, 2010

Intern at CLC: 2008/2009

Peace to you, CLC! I'm now in my 11th year of ordained ministry and serving Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Portage, MI. I love seeing CLC happenings in the newsletter and on Facebook. I am thrilled to see my internship project, the New Song service, is still part of life at CLC. You've all been in my prayers throughout the pandemic. Thank you for being part of my pastoral formation!

Shalom,

Rachel (Meier) Laughlin

The Rev. Ann Kelly

Ordained: August 24, 2013

Intern at CLC: 2010/2011

Greetings in the name of the Lord! I think of you often, and my formative time serving as an intern at Christ Lutheran (2010-2011). You taught me so much that I use every day in my ministry. I was ordained on August 24, 2013, and I currently serve as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sanford, NC. Without the support of congregations such as Christ – for interns, for seminarians, for the church in general – this would not have been possible. You have been and continue to be a blessing!

Our Members

The Rev. Dr. Janet L. Ramsey

Ordained: December 9, 1985

I am delighted to be included in this celebration of women's ordination in the ELCA! I was ordained at Christ Lutheran 35 years ago, and then served as chaplain/administrator at the Virginia Synod Lutheran Home (now Brandon Oaks). My husband Joe and I transferred our membership to Saint Timothy's, Vinton when I was called there, but our affections and connections to Christ Lutheran have remained strong throughout the years. My more recent adventures have included, most recently, teaching at Luther Seminary in St Paul, MN. Before that, I was a Marriage and Family Therapist in Roanoke and part time pastor at St John's Episcopal, Roanoke. I am now partially retired and writing my fourth book, this time a historical novel. Blessings and love to you all, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and thanks for your support through the years.

The Rev. Amy Oehlschlaeger

Ordained: October 27, 1996

God's grace and peace be with all of you! Thank you for mentoring me in my faith journey. I was baptized, confirmed, and ordained at Christ! God's people at Christ saw gifts in me for ordained ministry and helped me explore those gifts. Christ Lutheran Church's passion for service was a foundational stone in my faith journey. Now I have been ordained for 24 years and have served across the ELCA as a campus pastor, an associate pastor, and a solo pastor. I currently serve as the pastor of Hope Lutheran Church and Preschool in St. Charles, Missouri. I am thankful to God for calling me and

for the people who have encouraged, supported, and prayed for me along the way. Thank you, Christ Lutheran Church!

The Rev. Kathy Hull
Ordained: May 20, 2009 (Presbyterian Church USA)

Today we celebrate the 50th anniversary of women in ministry. Today we celebrate God's call to all His children, women and men. And today, we celebrate, the women who have shared themselves with Christ Lutheran Church and around the world, especially Pastor Cindy. These women of God have shared their knowledge, their talents, their theology, their grace, and their time with all of us. Luke 12:48 says, "...from everyone to whom much is given, much will be required." Well done, good and faithful women servants.

The Rev. Phyllis Wilkerson Diamond
Ordained: November 11, 2012

It is with great joy that we have returned to the fellowship of Christ Lutheran Church, Roanoke. This sacred space holds many wonderful memories for me and for our family. Doug and I were married here in 1997. Joshua, Aaron and Gabrielle were baptized here. I loved singing in the choir and serving as the cantor. We enjoyed our Bible Study classes and the fellowship. I was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in November of 2012 in this place. As I look back at photos taken from ordination day, I am filled with gratitude for the support I received from Pastor Dave and this congregation. I remember the beautiful music complete with trumpet fanfare, the gathering of smiling faces and the humbling experience of being blessed and sent for ministry. Our path has led us up into the Shenandoah Valley as I served three congregations which comprised the River of Life partnership, St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Luke, from 2012-2018. Our journey continued to Moxham Lutheran Church in Johnstown, Pennsylvania where I served as an interim pastor for the past two years. As we worship and serve with you, we await the next call to serve the church. In the meantime, we continue to proclaim the gospel in word and deed. It is indeed good to be here. Thanks be to God.

May God's Peace be with us, hold us close and sustain during these trying days.
Pastor Phyllis Diamond

Ms. Grace Casola
Candidate for Ordination/Student at Virginia Theological Seminary

Dear Christ Lutheran,
Thank you all for the support that you have shown me throughout my time at seminary thus far. As we approach the ELCA's 50/40/10 celebration honoring 50 years of Lutheran women's ordination, 40 years since the ordination of the first Lutheran woman of color, and 10 years of LGBTQ people being able to serve freely, I am particularly thankful for the strong Lutheran women of Christ Lutheran and elsewhere who have paved the way for female leaders, have mentored me, and have shaped me into the person I am today. The inclusion of women's voices in leadership makes the Body of Christ stronger, and I rejoice at being part of a congregation and denomination that acknowledges this truth.

Blessings,
Grace Casola