



## Reign of Christ

Sunday, November 22, 2020

### Gathering in God's Presence

**Prelude** — “Kingsfold Suite: I. That Kingsfold Tune, IV. Aria”

Setting by David Dahl

**Welcome**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.  
Amen.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,  
**we confess that we are not awake for you.**  
**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**  
**We forget the least of our siblings.**  
**We do not see your beautiful image**  
**in one another.**  
**We are infected by sin**  
**that divides your beloved community.**  
**Open our hearts to your coming,**  
**open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,**  
**open our hands to serve your creation.**  
Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,  
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.  
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,  
by Jesus you are welcome,  
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!  
Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.  
Amen.



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;  
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light  
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed;  
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,  
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crating to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.  
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984  
 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844  
 Text © Oxford University Press

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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.**

# Hearing & Responding to God's Word

## A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

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.

## Psalm 95 — from ELW Morning Prayer (Matins), front of hymnal, page 300

*Refrain*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us  
shout for joy to the rock of our sal - va - tion.

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. **R**

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. **R**

6Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

7aFor the Lord is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture and the  
sheep of God's hand. **R**

## A Reading from the Epistles — Ephesians 1:15-23

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.

## Gospel Acclamation — no. 262, sung twice

“Wait for the Lord”

The image shows a musical score for a two-part setting of the Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!". The first system ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note. The second system also ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

Text: Taizé Community  
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
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## Gospel — Matthew 25:31-46

The Gospel of the Lord according to the 25th chapter of Matthew.  
**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 — "Who Reigns in Your Life?"

Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen

Hymn —

"Today, We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

1. To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord,  
 2. God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man race  
 3. Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y stream,  
 4. May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing word,

to help to set the cap - tive free, make plow - share out of sword,  
 to live as stew - ards of the earth, re - spond - ing to God's grace,  
 with righ - teous - ness in field and town, to cleanse us and re - deem.  
 and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.

to feed the hun - gry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,  
 But we are vain and sad - ly proud; we sow not peace but strife.  
 For God is long - ing to re - store an earth where con - flicts cease,  
 As stew - ards of the earth may we give thanks in one ac - cord

to serve the poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.  
 Our dis - cord spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.  
 a world that was cre - a - ted for a har - mo - ny of peace.  
 to God who calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

## Apostles' 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

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.

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. Release us from systems of oppression and prejudice, and restore our capacity to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people. 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. We lift up prayers of healing for Marion Peterson and all others we name either aloud or in silence. 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.**

## Offering

*Please remember to give financially to support our ministry.*

*You can write a check and mail it to the church office or give online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.*

# Sharing the Lord's Supper

## The Great Thanksgiving and Preface

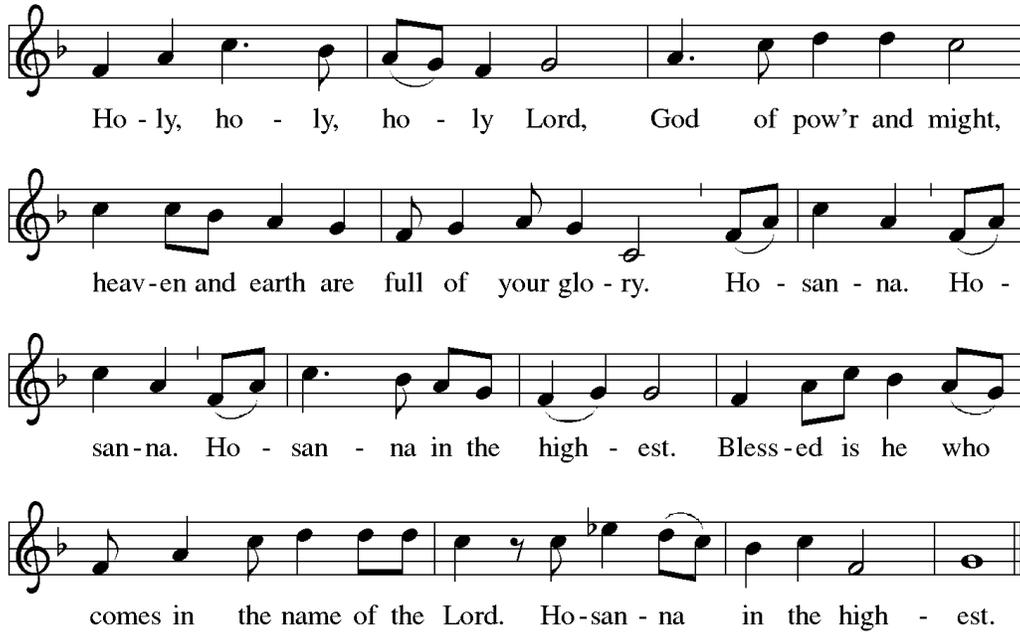
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

## Sanctus — From *ELW Setting Three*

“Holy, Holy, Holy”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution

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.

## The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Communion

*Please raise your bread up. The body of Christ given for you. Please eat the bread now.  
Please raise up your glass. The blood of Christ shed for you. Please drink the wine/juice now.*

## Post- Communion Prayer

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you always and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

# Departing to Serve God's World

## Announcements

## Blessing

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service,  
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!  
The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,  
be with you today and always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

May Jesus reign in your life each day. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Sending Hymn — no. 760

“O Christ the Same”

*The music can be found on the last page of the bulletin.*

## Acknowledgements

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Pastor/Presider: Bill Nelsen

Cantor: Emily Bruflat

Lector/Reader: Becky Otterness

## Announcements

**Annual Congregation Meeting:** As many of you know, First Lutheran's Constitution requires a Congregation meeting to be held on the first Sunday in December. The Constitution also requires a notice of the meeting to be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail or electronic means to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. This Congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 6, 2020, at 11:00am via Zoom**. The purpose of the December meeting is the election of new Congregation Council members and the adoption of a budget for the following year. In addition to these two required items, the Council is proposing three amendments to the Constitution. Such amendments must be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at a Congregation meeting and then be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting. Details on these three items and how the Zoom meeting will be conducted will be included in the mailed notice. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Church Council.

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship** Our tradition of an ecumenical worship service continues this year! Trinity, FLC, Union Presbyterian, Church of Saint Peter, and Church of the Holy Communion Episcopal are joining together for a virtual service! It will air on Facebook AND SPPA at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25 and again on SPPA Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. See more times in the newsletter. Please tune in for this special event as we give our thanks and praise to God as a community of believers!

**Thanksgiving and Holidays:** While we know that many families have traditions of getting together for holiday celebrations, our Health Advisory Team advises extreme caution this year. Cases of COVID are climbing higher and higher, and hospitals are nearing capacity. Spending time gathering with others is one of the MOST COMMON ways this virus is spread. We at First Lutheran encourage you to consider virtual holiday gatherings and to refrain from combining households for festivities in keeping with the governor's recent mandate. We want all of our members and their families to stay safe and healthy while this serious and deadly disease is among us.

**Christmas Opportunities:** While our Christmas worship will look different this year, Emily is working hard to bring joyous Christmas music into our festive celebrations. She is hoping to put together a virtual Christmas Choir! If you have an interest in participating in such a special occasion, email her at [musicflcstp@gmail.com](mailto:musicflcstp@gmail.com) by November 29th.

**Twelve Days of Family:** FLC invites you to let us into your home this holiday season by sharing with us a holiday tradition (e.g. singing a song, cooking a meal, decorating, making a snow person, etc.) of yours! Sign up, record your tradition, and submit it to Calleigh. All videos will be organized and released on our Facebook page throughout the Twelve Days leading up to Christmas! For more information email Calleigh, [cc.flcstp@gmail.com](mailto:cc.flcstp@gmail.com).

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** December 1st from noon until 6:00pm. This drive is by appointment only and you can call **1-800-Red Cross** or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and to find the location and schedule an appointment.

**Advent Drive-Thru:** FLC invites you to join us on December 6th from 4pm - 7pm for our Advent Drive-Thru event! You will get to drive around the parking lot and view Christmas scenes, sing Christmas carols LIVE from the safety of your car, and receive an Advent goody-bag! If you are able, please bring a donation for the food shelf.

**Seeking New Council Members:** The nominating committee is seeking new members to serve on the Church Council. We are seeking four adult members and one youth member to serve. Please contact Mary Spear by email ([majspear@gmail.com](mailto:majspear@gmail.com)) or phone (507-317-1817) if you have any questions or are interested in serving.

**Prayer Concerns:** We are called to remember one another in prayer. We lift up prayers of healing for Marion Peterson and all others we lift up in our personal prayers this week.

## “O Christ the Same”



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es,  
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing  
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing



our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;  
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide,  
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main,



e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,  
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing  
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,



un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:  
the marks of love, in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:  
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:



O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,  
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en,  
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,



who spread the skies, and set the stars a - blaze,  
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing pow'r,  
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,



O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,  
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en,  
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,



we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.  
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.  
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: RED HILL ROAD, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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