

# Christ the King Sunday

November 22, 2020 (Real Church Virtual)



## Welcome / Confession and Forgiveness

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

**C: Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Holy One,

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## Crown Him with Many Crowns

### Verse 1

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne; hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless king throughout eternity.

### Verse 2

Crown him the virgin's Son the God incarnate born, whose arm those crimson trophies won which now his brow adorn; fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem, the root whence mercy ever flows, the babe of Bethlehem.

### Verse 3

Crown him the Lord of love—behold his hands and side, rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified. No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight, but downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.

### Verse 4

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save. His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high, who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

### Verse 5

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time, creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime. All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

## Greeting

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

**C: And also with you!**

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

**C: 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.**

## First 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.*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I 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, <sup>18</sup>so 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, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God 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, <sup>21</sup>far 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. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## Psalmody: Psalm 95:1-7a

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

<sup>7a</sup>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

*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.*

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>31</sup>"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. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then 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; <sup>35</sup>for 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, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then 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? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And 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.’ <sup>41</sup>Then 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; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I 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.’ <sup>44</sup>Then 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?’ <sup>45</sup>Then 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.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon – Pastor Paul

### 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 the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude

#### Lord’s Prayer

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.

#### Final Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

## **Dismissal**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **One True God**

### **Verse 1**

One voice in the dark; a song that lights up the stars; one breath that gives life. One, sov'reign in pow'r who speaks with thunder and fire; one Lord, one King. There is no other that can compare to You.

### **Chorus**

You are the One alone in greatness, the One who never changes. Jesus, You are the One who rose in power, the One who reigns forever. Jesus, the one true God.

### **Verse 2**

One man on a cross; one light of the world; one name, one word. One way to be saved; one Lamb that was slain; one love above all. There is no other that can compare to You.

### **Chorus**

You are the One alone in greatness, the One who never changes. Jesus, You are the One who rose in power, the One who reigns forever. Jesus, You're the one true God. You're the one true God.

### **Bridge**

And we have seen the glory of the one and only Son of God. Yes we have seen the glory of the one and only Son of God. And we have seen the glory of the one and only Son of God. Yes we have seen the glory of the one and only Son of God.



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*November 22, 2020*

**Stewardship Encouragement 2021 is On the Way!** Greetings Fellow Bethlehemites! We are in the fall season again, and it is time for us to look forward to Bethlehem's ministry in the coming year. We thank you for the way you have given your support to Bethlehem with your time, your talents and your treasure in 2020. It has been a very difficult year for many. However, we hope and pray that you will find many new blessings in 2021. If you haven't already received it, a letter from your Stewardship Committee, Pledge Card and an Automated Giving form were mailed out earlier this week. Please be mindful of all the ways you can contribute in ways big and small (including automatic giving), as we invite you to start now to pray and think about how you can generously support your church and its ministry as it does the will of our Lord Jesus. *Your BLC Stewardship Committee*

**Covid hits our congregation!** Please keep praying for all who are being hit by this illness especially one of our own council members. Even though all in that household were being careful, someone who was ill came to their home without wearing a mask and all are now very sick. Through the wonders of ZOOM this person was able to participate in the most recent council meeting, and the rest of us saw how ill someone could be even without being hospitalized. And another council member had to be in work/home only quarantine for 2 weeks due to recent multiple exposures in that person's essential job. *Know that any of the tough decisions that the council is making are with the well-being of all members in mind.*

**The NOVEMBER issue of the STAR is ready!** The STAR is no longer being subsidized by anonymous donors. We thank them for the generosity for 3 months and their hard work in preparing it for mailing. (There is even a rolling pin involved!!!) The cost of postage for the STAR is now being taken from the general fund. If anyone wants to make an extra donation towards postage due to the monthly cost of keeping all members informed, a notation can be made on any check or envelope. If you read the STAR on line and have not told us, please make certain you contact the office so we are not sending out copies needlessly. Printed STARS will also be available in the "Shooting Star box" outside the church entry later this week. Feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org) < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

The outdoor "**Shooting STAR Dispenser**" at BLC is now full with several paper publications, including the November STAR. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

**"2.0" is here!** We are excited to announce that a new experience is now here for our online worship, and we're calling it "2.0"! On Wednesday Nights, join Pastor Paul and others for an online Holden Evening Prayer or Taize service, as we begin melding some of our typical "Celebrate!" content, along with footage from outdoor communion and other gatherings into a new Wednesday experience. We may also look to YOU for help with readings if you are willing/able!

**Calling all Knitters!!:** There is an overabundance of yarn skeins in the bin under the mailboxes in the narthex. PLEASE feel free to grab some and make hats, mittens, prayer shawls, etc.! The yarn is sorted according to kind, so you can be sure to find something appropriate for whatever project you have in mind. Questions? Call Betty R. (947-1013)

**Christ in Our Home Devotionals for Oct, Nov, Dec have arrived.** They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

**Altar flowers have returned to our worship services.** If you would like to sign up for a particular weekend, you can call Sharon at 231-947-9880 or email her at [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) – the cost is \$40 per week.

**The daughter of one of our members, Kathi Ivany-Mort, is in need of a vehicle.** She is a single parent of three children, two of which have special needs. She has limited funds but would be open to a fair price and/or payment plan if desired. If you have a vehicle that would seat five people and possibly AWD or 4WD, please contact Kathi on her cell at 231-313-1647 or Kathi's husband, Jef Mort, at their home phone 231-929-4911.

**"Help the Children" School Supplies Project:** So far, we have been able to send school supplies to Traverse City High School and Blair Elementary, along with gift cards to two families at Silver Lake Elementary so they could purchase fall/winter clothing for their children. We also have added monies to send school supplies to Traverse Heights Elementary. We thank our Bethlehem family for the support of this important project.

**The BLC book club** will be meeting by ZOOM on Tuesday Nov. 24 at 5:30. We will discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. If you are not already on the list to receive the ZOOM link just send an email to Cindy Monroe at [cmonroe@chartermi.net](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net). Also contact her if you would like to borrow a book. We have the Book club bag checked out from the library and there are some extra copies available.

**Keep "Hope Spreading":** Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at [paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org) or *Sharon* at [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

**Pecans are now SOLD OUT!!!!** The Worship and Music committee thanks all who participated in our Fall Fundraiser. We also appreciate the support of Thrivent in this endeavor.

**"Zoom Bible Study", gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship.** We are using the Augsburg Fortress study of two of Paul's letters: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

**We're still collecting Oleson's receipts,** and we're hoping you've been saving yours for Bethlehem. Please drop them off in the bin under the mailbox counter. Thanks.