

**Christ the King Sunday | November 22nd, 2020**  
**Stewardship Appeal Sunday**

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**Announcements**

- Today is our 2021 Stewardship Appeal Sunday!
  - It's also Christ the King Sunday -- the last Sunday of our church year.
  - Next week we begin the journey of Advent. If you'd like an Advent in a Box, please let us know and we'll make one up for you!
- Thanksgiving Eve worship will be virtual this year. You can find it on our website and on public access at 9:00 am and 5:00 pm on November 25th.
- Worship will be on our website as well as on the local access channel. It will air on Sundays at 9:00 + 5:00 and at 5:00 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- We will continue to gather for Communion on Tuesdays at 5:00. We will meet in the sanctuary. RSVP to Pastor Ally.

***We Are the Church Together and Apart*** | Pastor Ally

Over the past 4 weeks we've journeyed together through our 2021 Stewardship Appeal, We Are the Church Together and Apart. You've received a letter of introduction to our appeal, hear temple talks from members of our faith community about our 3 goals of fellowship, outreach, and continuing our vibrant ministries, and you've received a second letter complete with brochure and Statement of Intent. Today, we will have an ingathering, as we set our intentions for the upcoming year.

These trying days have inspired members of the congregation to communicate, worship, and build relationships in unique ways. Because we believe that we are God's church when we are together and when we are apart, we recognize that God equips us in all times and places for ministry and outreach. We recognize that we have been called by name, gathered together, equipped, and sent to be the Church for the sake of the world, especially during unprecedented times such as this.

It has been a difficult year. More than ever, we must stay connected to the good news of the Gospel. God is with us and continues to bless our lives. We live in times of great opportunity for the church and St. Paul Lutheran Church is being called to meet these opportunities with generous hearts as we continue to be God's hands, God's feet, and God's love in the world.

As the church together and apart, join us as we celebrate your generosity and God's goodness and deepen our ministry together and in our community.

**Gathering Hymn** | *We All Are One in Mission*

ELW 576

**Confession + 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.**

### **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**

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.**

### **Children's Message**

#### **Gospel Acclamation** (pg. 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.  
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.  
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

#### **\*Gospel Reading | Matthew 25:31-46**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "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. 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, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 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; 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, 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.' 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? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 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.' 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; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 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.’ 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?’ 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.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

## **Sermon + Gathering of Intent**

More Heart, Less Attack | *Special Music by Chris Engel*

## **Apostles’ Creed**

Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. We pray also for those who are sick especially, Pastor Dave, Chuck Vavra, Tanya Bohmer, Dave Farm, Dave Krenik, Dave Weber, Donna Sladek, Erin Buss, Jane Lorsung, Nancy Gjerde, Ron Germsheid, Sara Lobatos, Teri Knish, and all those we lift to you in the quiet of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on the ministries of this congregation. Inspire us as we continue to worship in new and meaningful ways and as we dream about the future of our

fellowship and outreach ministries. Make us good stewards of the resources that you have graciously given to us. May we give all of ourselves to you, that all creation may come to know you more. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

#### **\*Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **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**

Receive this final 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.**

**Sending Hymn** | *Love Consecrates the Humblest Act*

ELW 360

#### **Dismissal**

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