

## LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR—PROPER 29

The Difference Maker

November 22, 2020



### AS WE GATHER

We pause to consider our brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who have been ignored or mistreated. We are reminded today that Christ has chosen us to be His people, to be heirs with Him of salvation. Such grace gladdens our hearts and emboldens us to help our brothers and sisters in need.

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**HYMN**                    LSB 709 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

### INVOCATION

**Pastor:**     In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:**     **Amen.**

**OPENING SENTENCES**     *Psalm 95:1–3a, 6–7*

**Pastor:**     Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

**People:**     **let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

**Pastor:**     Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving!

**People:**     **For the LORD is a great God.**

**Pastor:**     Oh come, let us worship and bow down.

**People:**     **For He is our God,**

**Pastor:**     and we are the people of His pasture,

**People:**     **and the sheep of His hand.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:**     Indeed, our heavenly Father has called us to be His people. He has led us to green pastures and still waters. Yet, there have been times when we have treated our fellow sheep with disdain, when we have wandered away from our Shepherd. But our Good Shepherd does not abandon us, and we confess our sins before Him and one another.

*Silence for reflection*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we confess that we have wandered away from You. We confess that we have acted shamefully toward our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might follow You to the green pastures and still waters of everlasting life.**

Pastor: Our heavenly Father has heard Your confession and sent His only Son, Jesus, to be our Good Shepherd. Jesus searches for each one of His sheep. He brings back those who have strayed. He binds up the injured. He even lays down His life for the sheep. By Christ's death and resurrection, God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**☩ WORD ☩**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”

Lord, I lift Your name on high,  
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.  
I'm so glad You're in my life,  
I'm so glad You came to save us.  
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;  
Lord, I lift Your name on high. (Repeat)

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with You.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You care for all people regardless of their wealth or heritage, and You have made us heirs of Your salvation. Strengthen us, that we care for the poor, weak, and lonely, and that all our neighbors may

know Your gracious love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**     *Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**     *1 Corinthians 15:20–28*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**     *Revelation 22:13*

Pastor: Alleluia. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,

**People:** **the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**     *Matthew 25:31–46*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     LSB 569 tune 528 “In Adam We Have All Been One”

**SERMON**

**CREED**     *Apostles’ Creed*

**People:** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**LORD'S PRAYER**     *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:**     **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.**

**OFFERTORY**     LSB 548 “Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious”

## BENEDICTION

**Pastor:**     The Lord bless you and keep you.  
                  The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
                  The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:**     **Amen.**

**HYMN**             LSB 722 “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”