

Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

801 Beacon Lane

Beulah, North Dakota

Rev. Toby H. Heller, Pastor

November 26, 2023

Last Sunday of the Church Year



*"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and
the last, the beginning and the end."*

Revelation 22:13

✠ In the Name of Jesus ✠

Welcome to worship this morning! On this Last Sunday of the Church year, we are reminded that Christ is our King. He established His kingdom through His passion and death. He now rules and protects His Church and governs over all the world, especially for the benefit of His Church. On the last day, He will lead His Church to the glory of heaven. We rejoice in the word of St. Paul, *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom* (2 Ti 4:19). Visitors, please sign our guest book and worship with us again soon!

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ's Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public witness that we are in complete agreement with the denomination's doctrinal teachings at whose altar we commune. Therefore, we ask that only communicant members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod commune with us. All guests are asked to talk to Rev. Heller before coming to the altar to receive the Sacrament.

DIVINE SERVICE

Setting One

Hymn of Invocation

905

Confession & Absolution

p. 151

Introit

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,

the home of righteousness.

O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;

let me know how fleeting I am!

Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,

and my lifetime is as nothing before you.

And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?

My hope is in you.

Deliver me from all my transgressions.

Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry;
hold not your peace at my tears!

For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,
the home of righteousness.

Kyrie p. 152

Gloria in Excelsis p. 154

Salutation & Collect p. 156

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

"For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I 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 ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

"Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.

Gradual

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

"Alleluia" p. 156

Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus says] "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd

separates the sheep from the goats. And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who 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 drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.'

"Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, 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 no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, 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."

Nicene Creed p. 158

Hymn of the Day # 525

Sermon

Offering

“What Shall I Render” p. 159

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament p. 160

Distribution Hymns # 801, 710, 537

“Thank the Lord” p. 164

Post-Communion Collect p. 166
Benediction p. 166
Closing Hymn # 672

**WE GO FROM THIS PLACE OF WORSHIP WHERE WE ARE ABOUT
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES TO MAKE DISCIPLES FOR JESUS**

In our thoughts and prayers,



† Hannah Schantz and Vivian Zimmerman
(Kristi Stevens' mother).



Our Stewardship of Offerings and Attendance

Worship: 62 Offerings: \$2,324.00

“Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ ”

Matthew 25:44

With this parable Jesus once again emphasizes that our good works come from who we are, not the other way around. Sheep do sheep works, and goats do goat works. So, first things first. If we want to live more faithfully, let us come to Jesus, receive His gifts, and ask him to increase our faith.

Announcements

Ingathering: The December Human Care ingathering is “In Need”. Anything you wish to donate. Items will be delivered to Women’s Action & Resource Center before Christmas. Please leave items on the shelves in the entryway.

Please join us next Sunday, December 3, 11:00 am for our Family Advent Potluck. Ham and buns will be furnished by Thrivent Action Team funds. Please bring a dish to share. We will have a free will offering for our adopted seminary student, Joseph Greenmayer.



Peace Came to Earth is the theme of our mid-week Advent Services. Please join us for our mid-week Advent worship beginning on Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 pm. Soup and Sandwich suppers are at 5:30 pm.

“Manger Tales”, the Children’s Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 24, 10:00 am. Children of any age are invited to participate. Practice will be each Sunday, December 3, 10 and 17, during the Sunday school hour. If you have any questions, please call or text Katlyn Baker at 701-870-2110



