



**ELW Service of the Word  
25th Sunday after Pentecost  
Christ the King Sunday**

**November 22, 2020  
First Lutheran Church - Sandpoint, ID**

# **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Welcome!** We are thankful for this time you have set aside for worship of God and care of one another. These last weeks of the Church year, draw us into visions of the reign of God. They speak of The Day of the Lord and the fulfillment of God's dream for creation. Depending upon how you view God, people either expect violence and destruction or the peaceable kingdom. Rapture or God coming to dwell among God's people and drawing all creation to God's self, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Today we wonder together, when was it that we saw Christ and welcomed Him?

With the Panhandle Health moving us into the Red Level for schools and businesses and Governor Little moving the state of Idaho back to Stage 2, we feel it is best to not meet in person for worship for the time being. Also, Luther Park currently has 9 residents (one is in the hospital) and 5 staff who have tested positive for Covid-19. The hospitals in our region are at or near capacity for being able to treat any emergency health needs. Available healthcare workers are stretched thin. Please hold all of them in prayer.

While places of worship are exempt from the closures according to the law, we are not as people of faith. Per God's commandments, we are to love and fear the Lord, so we do not put our neighbor in harms way (Small Catechism's explanation of the 5th Commandment). We also recognize there is more than physical health at play. Social, emotional, and spiritual parts of our health also need to be addressed.

So, we invite you now, to turn to God, and allow the Holy Spirit to care for you through God's Word shared in print here and through the proclamation and response you may experience through our recorded worship posted on our website: <https://www.firstlutheransandpoint.org/online-worship.html>.

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.**

**Sin 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.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,

and through his death and resurrection,

Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG - *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!***

**(ELW 634)**

1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall;

bring forth the royal diadem

and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the royal diadem

and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng

we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song

and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe

on this terrestrial ball

to him all majesty ascribe

and crown him Lord of all.

**\*GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

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.**

**\*KYRIE**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

*Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.*

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As 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. <sup>13</sup>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 watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I 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. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>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, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -  
lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*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.*

[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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW 780, verses 1-3)

### Shepherd Me, O God

*Refrain*  
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from

death in - to life. life.

*to stanzas 1, 2, 3, 5* | *to stanza 4*

Leader or All

1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I  
 2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you  
 3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I

rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I  
 lead me by path - ways of righ - teous - ness and truth, my  
 fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

*Refrain*

walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.  
 spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.  
 rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

## **\*CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

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*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

## **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.

*A brief silence.*

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 (*especially*). Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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 (*especially*). 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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. 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.**

## **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, while remaining in your pew.*

## **THANKSGIVING**

### **OFFERING -**

*Take this time to reflect upon what you are grateful for.*

*Offerings may be placed in the plates as you go out from this worship to live in service to God throughout the week.*

*Or you can give online <https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>.*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

*The presiding minister leads one of the following or another appropriate prayer.*

Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word,  
for calling creation into being,  
declaring forgiveness from the cross,  
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.  
**we praise you, O God, for your Word.**

Gen. 1:3  
Luke 23:34  
John 3:5

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,  
a mirror reflecting our selves,  
a shield providing us refuge,  
a fire burning for justice and truth.  
We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.  
**we bless you, O God, for your Word.**

*Ps. 119:105*  
*James 1:23*  
*Prov. 30:5*  
*Jer. 23:29*  
*Ps. 19:10*

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,  
and to all the cries of the needy.  
Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,  
that heeding your voice of beauty and power  
we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

*Eph. 2:19-20*  
*James 5:4*  
*John 20:22*  
*Ps. 29:9*  
*Rom. 16:25-26*

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath --  
**we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.**  
**Amen.**

### **LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### BLESSING

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

### \*SENDING SONG

(ELW 821)

## Shout to the Lord



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.



All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.



My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;



let ev - 'ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow-er and maj - es - ty, praise  
to the King. Moun-tains bow down and the seas will roar at the  
sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;  
for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.  
Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech

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c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

## DISMISSAL

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### WORSHIP NOTES:

Liturgy From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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## **Songs:**

“Shout to the Lord!” All rights reserved. onelicense.net A-705894.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23

Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen

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## **WORSHIP TEAM:**

Rev. Lori C. Morton - Pastor

Rev. Steve Neuder - Pastor

Piano Colleen Culwell

Scott Youngren - Video and Sound

**PRAYERS:** Please hold the following people in prayer for healing and new life.

Luther Park - Its staff, residents, families, and our management Company, Ecumen as they seek to care for one another and stay apart and wait for the pandemic to wane.

Our Country - In the midst of division and ongoing uncertainty about our future.

The beginning of the Holiday Season, with Thanksgiving this week and all the ways this time will be different this year.

Our People and those connected to us: Chris Ingham; Michael Cressina; Randy Petersen; Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Shawna; Gerda Burke; Debbie Haberlock; Kara Schripsema; Kai Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Eugene Kurwicki; Mike Shobe; Sylvia Greenwood; Janet Merrill; Carol Holm; Sonya Nordgaarden;; Jill Camp; Marguerite Suttmeier, Irene Lovejoy, Doris Hansen,

Our Congregation - As we seek leaders to serve on our 2021 Council, find a new Office Administrator, Estimate a Budget for 2021, tend to Luther Park, enter into Advent and the preparations for Christ's Birth, and live into Christ's reign as the Body of Christ for the sake of the world God so loves.

See the Weekly Newsletter for ways you can enter into the spiritual practices of Advent, including the Giving Tree.