GRACE LUTHERAN CHAPEL

*Grace Chapel exists to make and keep disciples for Jesus Christ.*

Last Sunday of the Church Year

**Saturday, November 21, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, November 22, 2020 - 8:00 a.m.**

WELCOME/GREETING

OPENING HYMN “Beautiful Savior,” No. 537

**1 Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
    Truly I’d love Thee, Truly I’d serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**2 Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow’rs of blooming spring;  
    Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.**

**3 Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
    Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.**

**4 Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
    Glory and honor, Praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine!**

INVOCATION

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

**Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

*Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;*

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

*Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving!*

**For the Lord is a great God.**

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

**For He is our God,**

*and we are the people of His pasture,*

**and the sheep of His hand.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*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)*

*Heavenly Father,*

**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.**

*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.*

**Amen. We are sought by our Shepherd. We are forgiven in Christ.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Glory to God, We Give You Thanks and Praise,” No. 946

**1 Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
    Of heav’nly joy and earthly peace we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
    Lord God, almighty Father, heav’nly King.**

**2 Lord Jesus Christ, the Father’s only Son,  
    You bore for us the load of this world’s sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict’ry won,  
    Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.**

**3 Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
    At God’s right hand in majesty most high:  
Who with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
    With all the heav’nly host we glorify.**

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SALUTATION

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray. 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.*

**Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING 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. **12**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. **13**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. **14**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. **15**I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. **16**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.

**20**“Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. **21**Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, **22**I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. **23**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. **24**And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 95:1-7a *(Spoken responsively)*

*1Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!***2Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

**3***For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.***4In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

**5***The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.*

**6Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

**7***For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.*

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21**For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. **22**For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. **23**But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. **24**Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. **25**For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26**The last enemy to be destroyed is death. **27**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. **28**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.

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Revelation 22:13*

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

GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

**“**When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34Then 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. 35For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40And 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.’

41“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. 42For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43I 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.’ 44Then 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?’ 45Then 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.’ 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES’ CREED

**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.**

OFFERING PRAYER

SERMON “Sheep and Goats”

Matthew 25:31-46 – Seminarian Aaron Reseburg

SERMON HYMN “Love in Christ Is Strong and Living,” No.706

**1 Love in Christ is strong and living,  
    Binding faithful hearts in one;  
Love in Christ is true and giving.  
    May His will in us be done.**

**2 Love is patient and forbearing,  
    Clothed in Christ’s humility,  
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,  
    Reaching out in charity.**

**3 Love in Christ abides forever,  
    Fainting not when ills attend;  
Love, forgiving and forgiven,  
    Shall endure until life’s end.**

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Dear heavenly Father, You promise to seek the lost. We pray for all those who have wandered away from Your Church. We pray that You would strengthen us to reach out to them, to receive them with open arms and open hearts when they return home. Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

**Give ear to our cry.**

*Lord, You promise to strengthen the weak. Send Your strength and courage to all those who need it, to the aging, the lonely, the tired, and the vulnerable. Protect and defend them from the wolves of this world. Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

**Give ear to our cry.**

*Lord, You promise to feed Your sheep with good pasture. Raise up faithful servants and shepherds to share the nourishment of Your Word and Sacraments with all Your sheep. Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

**Give ear to our cry.**

*Lord, You promise to rescue Your flock from all enemies. Guard and keep us from the enemies of sin, death, and Satan. Lead us away from temptation and always closer to the arms of our Good Shepherd. Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

**Give ear to our cry.**

*Lord, You promise to bind up the injured. Bring Your healing to all those who suffer now through injury, illness, and oppression. Heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

**Give ear to our cry.**

*Lord, by Your Word You have told us that the last enemy to be destroyed is death. As we await the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead, we still grieve and mourn when the enemy of death strikes our friends and family. Be near all those who are mourning the death of loved ones. Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

**Give ear to our cry.**

*Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.*

**Amen.**

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.**

BENEDICTION

*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.*

**Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Crown Him with Many Crowns,” No. 525

**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 Through all eternity.**

**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.**

**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 wond’ring eyes At mysteries so bright.**

**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.**

**5 Crown Him the Lord of heav’n, Enthroned in worlds above,  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv’n The wondrous name of Love.  
 Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;  
 Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all**.

POSTLUDE

*Grace is for all!*