

Order of Service for November 22, 2020
The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King

Officiant: The Rev. Canon Victoria Sirota

Lay Reader: Peter Walsh, II



The Congregation says the text in **bold**

Hymn 494 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A reading from Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 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. 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. 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says 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, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

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

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, the LORD, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95:1-7a Venite, exultemus

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

3 For the LORD is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

- 4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and 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.

A Reading from Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "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."

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon The Rev. Canon Victoria Sirota

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea,
We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,
We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

We pray for your healing grace on this country, for all new and returning elected officials and their staff, for President Trump and President-Elect Biden, and for a new era of compassion and zeal for justice. Please bless all teachers and students, those who are in danger by virtue of their labor, all who march in peaceful protest, and all who are struggling with wildfires and the aftermath of storms, earthquakes and flooding. We pray for God's healing grace for The Rev. Canon Claudia Wilson, Anthony Giannone Sr. and Jeanmarie, Aida Carino, Carol Craft, Karen Marchewka, Linda Brown, Henry McNamee, Bob Walters, Ruby Dixon, Elyse Gierlich, Phyllis Jackson, Carol Shoemaker, Karen Edmonson, Lara Pilla, Judith Shorrocks, Catherine Corry, John Farrell, Barbara Somers, Marie Baptiste, Anna Walters, Joan Smith, Carmen Hanchard, Jacob Blake, Melinda Rosas, Connie Tracey, Tom O'Connor, Lois Torkelsen, Ed Polochick, Felice Holmann, Thomas Neale, John Gore, Donna Coyne, Benay Cooper, Linda Barta, Val DeBride, Carla Jean DeBride, Shelly Henderson, Naomi Henderson, Shaadira Smith, Felix Benzan, Kelly Chadwick, Mary Sullivan, Stevan Cavalier, Al DeFeo, Deacon Luis Rivera, Bill Randolph, Claudette Buffalo, Melvyn Davis, Candra Davis, Wendy and Corey Maxwell, and Floyd Davis. We pray for Anthony Johnson, a Postulant for diaconal ordination, for all who have lost their jobs and all who are struggling to pay rent and other expenses, for the Scavenging Workers' Children in India, for peace in Armenia, for all who have been treated less than justly due to the color of their skin, and for changing hearts surrounding issues of racism in America.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this week, we thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life including family and friends near and far, those who celebrate their birthdays including Giselda Nascimento, all who are members of Saint John's Church and all who listen to our weekly audio and on-line offerings, for this neighborhood of Getty Square, The Sharing Community and Westhab, The Salvation Army, YWCA and the YMCA, the Yonkers Fire and Police Departments, all teachers and students, for Saint John's Riverside Hospital, Saint Joseph's Medical Center, for all hospitals, nursing homes and group homes, and for all who work to help others. We also thank our military forces and all of our veterans who protect and have protected those liberties that we hold so dear.

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, including John Gambicki, all soldiers who have died defending our country, those who have died from illness and natural disasters including wildfires, storms, earthquakes and flooding, and for the more than 253,000 Americans who have died from COVID-19. We also lament those who have died over the centuries including indigenous peoples, due to slavery, lynching, racism and the unequal and unjust treatment of peoples in this country.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Officiant: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Officiant and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Peace

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you

People: And also with you.

Closing Prayers

Benediction and Dismissal

Hymn 433 "We Gather Together"

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