

# HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

2107 Three Oaks Rd, Cary, IL

November 21 & 22, 2020

## Observing the Last Sunday of the Church Year

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Inspired by Christ • Serving under Christ • Growing in Christ

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Order of Service from Setting I, page 151 in the Lutheran Service Book

OPENING HYMN

“Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense”

LSB 741, v. 1-4

**Jesus Christ, my sure defense and my Savior, now is living!  
Knowing this, my confidence rests upon the hope here given,  
Though the night of death be fraught still with many an anxious thought.**

**Jesus, my Redeemer, lives; likewise I to life shall waken.  
He will bring me where He is; shall my courage then be shaken?  
Shall I fear, or could the Head rise and leave His members dead?**

**No, too closely am I bound by my hope to Christ forever; faith's strong hand the Rock has found,  
Grasped it, and will leave it never; even death now cannot part from its Lord the trusting heart.**

**I am flesh and must return to the dust, whence I am taken;  
But by faith I now discern that from death I shall awaken with my Savior to abide in His glory, at His side.**

*1 Cor. 15:34-58; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Cor. 15:20-23; Job 19:25-27*

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.** *Matt 28:19*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 Jn 1:8-9*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake 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. *Jn 1:12; Phil. 1:6*

**C: Amen.**

### SERVICE OF THE WORD

#### INTROIT

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. “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. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. *2 Peter 3:13; Ps. 39:4-5, 7-8, 12*

KYRIE *Mark 10:47*

P: ♪ In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: ♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

P: ♪ For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: ♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

P: ♪ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: ♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

P: ♪ For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: ♪ **Lord, have mercy.**

P: ♪ Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

CANTICLE *Rev. 5:12-13; 19:5-9*

*Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!*

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Refrain**

**Power, riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are His. Refrain**

**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.**

**Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. Refrain**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: ♪ The Lord be with you. *2 Tim 4:22*

C: ♪ **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, You have appointed Your Son as the 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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 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.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE LESSON: 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE ALLELUIA

**C: ♪ Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: ♪ Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

"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."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: ♪ 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!**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

"Have No Fear, Little Flock"

LSB 735

**Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock, for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom;  
Have no fear, little flock!**

**Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock, for the Father will keep you in His love forever;  
Have good cheer, little flock!**

**Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above,  
For he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you; Praise the Lord high above!**

**Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God,  
For he stays close beside you, in all things works with you; thankful hearts raise to God!**

*Luke 12:32; Matt. 25:34; Ps. 101:3-5; Matt. 28:20*

SERMON: "To One of the Least of These" *Text: Matthew 25:31-46*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P: **♪** The Lord be with you.

C: **♪ And also with you.** *2 Tim 4:22*

P: **♪** Lift up your hearts.

C: **♪ We lift them to the Lord.** *Col. 3:1*

P: **♪** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.** *Ps. 136*

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should in all times and all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS *Isaiah 6:3; Matt. 21:9*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might; heaven and earth are full of Your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

THE 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!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. *Jn. 20:19*

C: **♪ Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *Jn 1:29*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Christ, the Word of God Incarnate”

LSB 540

**Christ, the Word of God incarnate, Lord and Son of Abraham;  
Christ, the radiance of the Father, perfect God, the great I AM;  
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished, light and life You bring to all;  
Light our path with Your own presence, grant us grace to heed Your call.**

**Christ, the living bread from heaven, food for body, food for soul;  
Christ, the manna daily given, nourish, strengthen, make us whole.  
Feed us with the food of heaven, foretaste of the feast to be;  
Quench our thirst with living water springing up eternally.**

**Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant from the stump of Jesse’s tree;  
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches to bear fruit abundantly.  
Graft us into You, O Savior; prune our hearts so we remain  
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard till eternal life we gain.**

**Christ, our good and faithful shepherd, watching all Your lambs and sheep;  
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold, never-failing vigil keep.  
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us, find us, lift us, bear us home;  
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us; let us hear Your voice alone.**

**Christ, the way that leads unailing to the Father’s home on high,  
Christ, the truth that frees the captive, Christ, the life that cannot die.  
Mediator to the Father, sacrifice and great High Priest:  
Lead us to Your heav’nly mansions, there to share Your wedding feast.**

**Christ, the Alpha and Omega, Christ, the firstborn from the dead,  
Christ, the life and resurrection, Christ, the Church’s glorious head:  
Praise and thanks and adoration and unending worship be  
To the Father and the Spirit, and to You eternally.**

*Jn. 1:1-14; 6:30-40; 48-58; 10:7-16; 27-28; 15:1-8*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *Ps. 105*

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell everyone what He has done.  
Let everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls his promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving: Alleluia, Alleluia!**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever,

**C: Amen.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"

LSB 741, v. 5-8

**Glorified, I shall anew with this flesh then be enshrouded;  
In this body I shall view God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;  
In this flesh I then shall see Jesus Christ eternally.**

**Then take comfort and rejoice, for His members Christ will cherish.  
Fear not, they will hear His voice; dying, they shall never perish;  
For the very grave is stirred when the trumpet's blast is heard.**

**Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave and at death no longer tremble;  
He, the Lord, who came to save will at last His own assemble.  
They will go their Lord to meet, treading death beneath their feet.**

**O, then, draw away your hearts from all pleasures base and hollow;  
Strive to share what He imparts while you here His footsteps follow.  
As you now still wait to rise, fix your hearts beyond the skies!**

*1 Cor. 15:34-58; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Cor. 15:20-23; Job 19:25-27*

†††TO GOD ALONE BE ALL GLORY†††