

November 20, 2022

CHRIST THE KING

Jesus, Remember Me

When we want to remember something, we write ourselves a note or slip a rubber band around our wrist or call home and leave a message on our own answering machine. For us twenty-first-century people, remembering is an individual's action and simply means calling to mind from the past--if only calling to mind that this morning we decided it was time to buy milk.

Biblical writers understood remembering in quite a different way. First, remembering was viewed as the act of a community, not just an individual. To remember someone's name was to make it alive within the community. If a name was forgotten, the person ceased to exist for the entire community. Second, remembering was understood as more than a mental activity. To remember God's law, for example, was not just to think about it but to *do* it.

When the criminal who was hanged on a cross next to Jesus begged him, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom," Jesus responded, "Today you will be with me in Paradise." Jesus promised not just to think about the thief but to bring him into the courts of heaven. Here we see the power of remembering!

The act of remembrance takes on deep significance for us when we revisit Jesus' command to the Twelve who ate with him in the upper room, "Do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19). With this instruction he made a promise: When you remember me--when you invoke me as your crucified, risen, victorious Lord--I will become newly present to you. So today, when we follow Jesus' command and remember his name through the celebration of Holy Communion, we thereby proclaim: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Our divine Ruler is not just a memory; he is with us.

First St. John Lutheran Church

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Rev. Jerald K. Rayl

Dr. Anthony Pattin - Church Musician
Jacob Kelly - Youth & Family Minister
Toni Wilbarger - Office Manager



Called through faith; Gathered in worship; Serving the community

November 20, 2022 - 8:00 am

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Christ the King

Welcome to First St. John Lutheran Church! We offer two services with Sunday School for youth and adults and catechism between the services. Our regular Sunday schedule is:

8:00 am	Early Worship
9:15 am	Sunday School / 1st Year Catechism
9:15 am	Adult Bible Study
10:30 am	Late Worship
11:30 am	2nd Year Catechism every other Sunday

Livestream and Recorded Worship: We livestream the service on our church website at www.firststjohn.com. Also, the service will be recorded and published to the website.

Adult Sunday School meets at 9:15 am in the Youth Room area in the basement of the Educational Building.

Children ages 3 through 5th grade will meet at 9:15 am for Sunday School in the basement of the church (the JAM Room!).

Catechism Classes: First year class will be held from 9:15 to 10:15 am each Sunday. Second year class will meet every other Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Nursery is in the church basement and is currently unstaffed; you are welcome to sit with your child. A diaper changing table is available in the ladies restroom in the basement of the church.

Restrooms are in the church basement. Go to the Narthex (lobby) and take either set of steps to the basement hallway. The ladies room is at one end, and the men's room is at the other.

Flowers: If you would like to sign up for altar flowers, there is a book in the lounge. Or, you can call the church office during the week to check on availability.

Memorials: If you wish to give a memorial in honor or memory of a loved one, you may mail it in or pick up a memorial card in the church office.

2022 POINSETTIA SALE

SPONSORED BY THE ALTAR GUILD



Fill in the form below to place your order for poinsettias during worship at Christmas time. You can place this payment in the offering plate or mail it in to the church. Payment must accompany orders. Checks payable to: **First St. John**

Deadline for placing orders is Sunday, December 11th.

Number of plants @ \$15.00 each _____ Enclosed: \$ _____

Color (circle one) Red White

Name _____

Phone _____

In Loving Memory of (Deceased) _____

In Honor of (Living) _____

ORDER OF WORSHIP—8:00 am

P: We pray especially that through these gifts, the hearts of the children and their families will be opened to your love and the message of your grace through Jesus Christ.

C: Loving God, we pray for your grace to be made known.

P: We pray also for the children and their families who are suffering in the desperate circumstances of poverty, sickness, or war, that you will meet their physical needs.

C: Providing God, we pray for your bounty.

P: We pray also that these shoeboxes will be useful tools to open doors for the proclamation of the gospel. To this end, in faith, we ask for your blessing.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn “*The Head That Once Was Crowned*” No. 432

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Dr. Pattin

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

ELDERS

Bill Nelson, Mike Winslow

READER

Lisa Anderson

Prelude Dr. Pattin
Ringing of the Bell (Please stand)

Opening Song “*Crown Him With Many Crowns*” No. 855, v. 1-4

Confession and Forgiveness

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: 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. We are infected by sin that 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.

P: Beloved, we are God’s children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

C: Amen.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Announcements

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

This reading builds on the metaphor of the king as shepherd. An unjust ruler's influence is about to bring disaster. Nevertheless, the Lord will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD.

³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

I will be exalted among the nations. (Ps. 46:10)

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,**

³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ **The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.**

⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

⁸ **Come, behold the works of the Lord;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.**

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **"Be still, and know that I am God!**

I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."

¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

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.

(Please be seated)

The Offering

Offertory Music

Dr. Pattin

Offering Prayer

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C: Amen.

Pastoral Prayer *(Each petition concludes with this response)*

P: God in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer *(prayed by all)*

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.

Operation Christmas Child Dedication Prayer

P: Loving God, we pray for your blessing of these shoeboxes for the mission of Samaritan's Purse: "Operation Christmas Child."

P: We pray for the hurting children and families whose lives will be blessed by these boxes and the contents we've packed with love.

C: Loving God, we pray for your loving touch.

GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43

On the cross, Jesus is revealed to be a ruler different from what many had anticipated. He has the power to welcome others to paradise but will not use that power to save himself from death.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [34]Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" 36The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

39One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" 40But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." 42Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Gospel Response

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

Sermon Hymn

"Beautiful Savior"

Pastor Rayl

No. 838

(Please stand)

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
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.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20

An early Christian hymn praises Christ as one who reigns in heaven and on earth.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully 12giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Gospel Announcement

P: The Gospel according to St. Luke Chapter 23.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**