



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Christ the King Sunday, November 26, 2023
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Steve Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

Pam Stover

Hymn

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

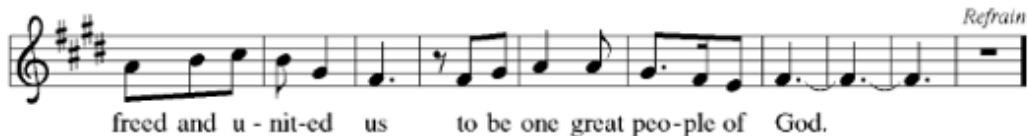
ELW 855

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.**

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



Prayer of the Day

P 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.**

Childrens Sermon

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As 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. ¹³I 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. ¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I 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.

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

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

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸so 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, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God 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, ²¹far 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. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia!

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

P The Holy Gospel according....**C** Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“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. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then 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; ³⁵for 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, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then 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? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And 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.’ ⁴¹Then 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; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I 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.’ ⁴⁴Then

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?’⁴⁵ 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.’⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

P The Gospel of the Lord! **C Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon “The Utter Joy of Being Blessedly Clueless” *Pastor Steve Bond*

Hymn “Jesus Shall Reign” **ELW 434**

The Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

AM Holy God, from Christ we receive our call to feed, clothe, and welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. We pray for those who suffer; **Tom Jennings, Kay Burdo, Craig Burdo, Phyllis Sturgeon, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Brittany Dewitz, Brianna Chevez, Sue Brown, Judy Mock, Deann Schiavone, Val Brown, Ron Hetherwick, Tristan Kimmey, Austin Cunningham, Sienna, Reichen, Nacole, Kathy Chamberlain.....** and all others whom we remember in silence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM In Christ we are made the people of his pasture. Inspire the outreach and social ministries of this congregation. We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM Holy God, in Christ, we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us, *especially Ray Chamberlain*. Unite us with them as one body of Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it.

Sharing of the Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C** **And also with you!**

Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.


Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offering Prayer

AM 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. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: Congregation:



The Lord be with you. And al - so with

Detailed description: This block contains the first line of musical notation for 'The Great Thanksgiving'. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. The first four notes are marked 'Presider:' and the remaining six notes are marked 'Congregation:'. The lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with' are printed below the staff.

Presider: Congregation:



you. Lift up your hearts. We

Detailed description: This block contains the second line of musical notation. It continues the melody from the first line. The first note is marked 'Presider:' and the following five notes are marked 'Congregation:'. The lyrics 'you. Lift up your hearts. We' are printed below the staff.

Presider:



lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Detailed description: This block contains the third line of musical notation. It continues the melody. The first four notes are marked 'Presider:' and the last two notes are marked 'Congregation:'. The lyrics 'lift them to the Lord. Let us give' are printed below the staff.

Congregation:

thanks to the Lord our God. It is
right to give God thanks and praise.

****The Eucharistic Prayer Continues.....**

HOLY

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

“For the Fruit of All Creation”
 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

ELW 679
ELW 502

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The 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. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

ELW 389

Dismissal

AM Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

Postlude

Making Jesus Known”

This is the Day the Lord has made! We are pleased to REJOICE AND WELCOME you! May God’s Word and Sacrament bless you! If you are visiting Community of Christ, we want to extend a very warm welcome to you! We would ask our visitors to complete the visitor card in the friendship pad. If there is some way we can serve you, please let us know!

We WELCOME YOU to worship with us at one of our TWO worship services. Join us at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. in person or on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing you and as always **BRING A FRIEND!!!!**

Young Adult and Adult Bible Study please join Pastor Steve in the library!

Topics for November:

Nov. 26, Grace and Gratitude: A Way of Life, Part 4

A Treasured Tradition - The Annual Covenant Signing: Community of Christ is nearing its 50th Anniversary. When the congregation was founded, its first pastor and leaders determined annually to affirm their participation in what God is doing through this particular congregation. Beginning today, Sunday, November 26, those who gather in worship (including those who participate “online”) will have the opportunity to renew this covenant. More information will be shared during the Sunday morning services and by email. We hope that you will review this covenant and affirm your involvement in the life and ministry of Community of Christ.



Our church family gathers **next Sunday, December 3** to receive the proposed budget for 2024. We will also elect four new members to our church council. Please plan to attend this important annual gathering of the congregation. We will begin promptly after the 10:00 a.m. service. Please plan to attend! Thank you so much!



Altar Flowers are given in memory of Carson Cochran ♥



Angel Gifts for Salem Children

This year, as in past years, Community of Christ will have the opportunity to reach out and bless the children at our sister church, Salem Lutheran Church in north Toledo. Salem Lutheran has provided us with a list of names of their children and their gift requests. These requests are in an envelope and are displayed on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place. Here are some important dates for the project:

- Enter your name on the pink or blue Angel slip on board and take the envelope. **Please do not remove pink or blue slips or relocate them on the board as this is our inventory method.**
- Shop for your Angel and leave your gift under the COC Christmas tree in the sanctuary.
- **Sunday, December 17, 2023:** Have your gifts to the church by this date. *No later than 12:00 p.m.*

Thank you for helping to bless these children!
Shelly & Ken Hayes

Wednesday Evening Advent Services December 6, 13, and 20: Our Advent Services will utilize “Holden Evening Prayer”, a service that is well-loved in many circles, and written by Marty Haugen.

Blue Christmas Evening Prayer Sunday, December 17, 4 pm: For a variety of reasons, Christmas is not an easy time for many. The joy others may be experiencing may contribute to the loneliness and pain that some feel. This year, on this evening, we invite members and friends to gather for Evening Prayer.

Through hymns, Scripture Lessons, candle lighting, prayer, and silence we hope to create space for naming pain, sorrow, and confusion so that the light of Christ might bring healing and renewed hope. Whatever your situation, you are invited to gather for this service.



**Community of Christ FAMILY Fellowship Event
Walleye Hockey Game and Dinner at PizzaPapalis**

Huntington Center, 500 Jefferson Avenue, Downtown Toledo
PizzaPapalis, 519 Monroe Street, Toledo, OH 43604

Sunday, December 3, 2023
5:15 Game followed by dinner
\$17.00 per hockey ticket (plus pizza)

Join us for a family fun night at the Huntington Center for a Walleye Game. *You can purchase tickets through the link that was emailed on November 17.* Please sign up on the kiosk and include your name, phone number, number of tickets, and whether or not you will be joining us for Pizza. You can call Kara Yokum at 419-344-8307 or Susan Nofzinger at 419-654-9227 with questions.



Holden Evening Prayer

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, 13, and 20 at 7:00 p.m., join us for a beautiful and contemplative sung setting of Evening Prayer and reflections on the Word that will ground us in our hope for Jesus' coming.

Scavenger Hunt



Attention All Youth Families!

Youth Scavenger Hunt for 5th-12th graders! Join us Sunday, December 10th at 5 p.m. for a fun youth event including a Scavenger Hunt and Christmas Party. We will meet at the church at 5 p.m. and adult volunteers will drive the kiddos around for the scavenger hunt. Afterward, we will head back to the church for judging, dinner, and a gift exchange. Friends are welcome!!!

Bring a \$5 wrapped gift for each participant.

Sign up here by *Monday, December 4th*.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EAEAA2AA0F8C34-youth1>

Email Laurie Dewitz at lsdewitz@gmail.com or Lainie Davis at lainedavis22@gmail.com with questions. Thanks! Hope to see you all there!



Let's spread some Christmas cheer to some of our members and friends who may not be able to attend holiday events in person. Join us as we go out to Christmas Carol on Saturday, December 16th. We will meet at the church at 4:30 and go to 5-6 locations. Afterward, we are invited to go to

Kari and Kevin Swagler's home, 10240 Reed Road, for Pizza. Look for a sign-up sheet on the kiosk. Bring your Christmas spirit and dress warmly.

**Join us on Facebook Live at
10:00 a.m.**

**or
in person!**

Worship & Sacrament
Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Bible Study
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

AA Meeting
Wednesdays 8 p.m.

Midweek Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

Caregivers Support Meeting
First Monday of every month
6:30 p.m.

Worship Services
Available on the net
at www.commofchrist.org