

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Voters' Meeting has been postponed until Nov. 29 (11:15 AM)
- Wed. Nov 25 – Thanksgiving Eve Service (in person and Facebook Live)
- Wed. Dec 2 begins our Midweek Advent Services (7:00 PM)
- Thanks to all those who donated and delivered bags of clothes for the Saver's Drive. We collected over 1800 lbs!

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 39:4–5, 7–8, 12a*

P: "O LORD, make me know my end
and what is the measure of my days;
C: let me know how fleeting I am!

P: Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.
C: Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!

P: "And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.
C: Deliver me from all my transgressions.
Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

P: "Hear my prayer, O LORD,
and give ear to my cry;
C: hold not your peace at my tears!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Indeed, the Lord hears our prayers and promises His forgiveness to those who repent. But even more astonishing is our Lord's pleading on our behalf before we repent. He said from the cross words that have echoed through the ages to those who live in dread of the day of judgment, saying "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." As we confess our sins before God let us be mindful of His unconditional love that is being extended to us in this moment. *(Silence for reflection)*

P: Heavenly Father,

C: 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 into the glory of Your eternal kingdom where You have prepared for us a secure home, in the community of the faithful.

P: Our heavenly Father has heard our 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 us all our 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.

C: Amen. We are sought by our Shepherd. We are forgiven in Christ.

SHARING THE PEACE

HYMN OF PRAISE No. 709 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

**The King of love my shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His And He is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul He leadeth
And, where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love He sought me
And on His shoulder gently laid And home rejoicing brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spreadst a table in my sight; Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And, oh, what transport of delight From Thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise Within Thy house forever.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You care for all people regardless of their wealth or heritage, and You have made us heirs of Your salvation. Strengthen us, that we care for the poor, weak, and lonely, and that all our neighbors may know Your gracious love; 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 READING *Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24* (God will search for His sheep.)

[11] “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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 15:20–28* (The last enemy to be destroyed is death.)

[20] 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Revelation 22:13*

L: Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega,

C: the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:31–46* (The separation of the sheep and the goats)

**P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

[31] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. [32] 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. [33] And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. [34] 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. [35] 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, [36] I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ [37] Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? [38] And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39] And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ [40] 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.’

[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. [42] For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, [43] 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.’ [44] 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?’ [45] 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.’ [46] 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.**

HYMN No. 733 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (vss. 1-3 & 6)[

**O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.**

**O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!**

SERMON "It's Time for a Heavenly Audit!"

Pastor Vern

Matthew 25:31-46

CONFESSION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLES' CREED *stand*

ALL: 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 OF THE CHURCH

BLESSING OF THE LORD

P: 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.

Numbers 6:24-26

C: Amen.

CLOSING SONG "Glorify Thy Name"

SENDING

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.