



St. John's Episcopal Church
Christ the King
The Last Sunday after Pentecost
November 22nd, 2020

Opening Words:

How wonderful a king, Lord God, you have given us in Jesus your Son: neither a monarch throned them and feeding and rescues the flock, bringing them back, binding them up, strengthening them and feeding them with justice.

Prepare us for the Day of Christ's coming in glory by shaping our lives according to his teaching that what we have done for the least of his brothers and sisters we have done for him, the Christ who was, who is, and who is to come, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Opening Hymn #388 ~ *O Worship the King (verses 1, 3, and 5)*

O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing His power and His love!
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old,
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender! how firm to the end!
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.

The Word of God

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

The Collect

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 for ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament

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 Response

Psalm 100

Jubilate Deo

- 1 Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; *
serve the LORD with gladness and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 **Know this: The LORD himself is God; ***
he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
- 4 **For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; ***
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The Epistle

[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 Gospel

[Matthew 25:31-46](#)

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."

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

The Sermon **The Rev. John Beach**

The Nicene Creed

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

The Prayers of the People

Our Shepherd satisfies our needs; in faith, let us pray to the Lord saying Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O Lord, our God, we pray for the church, particularly this parish of St. John's. As you have made Christ the head of all, help us to live faithfully as his body, continuing his mission in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O Lord, our God, we pray for the earth. Let all the earth make a joyful noise to you, a song of praise to the rock of our salvation, for you are coming to reveal a new creation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O Lord, our God, we pray for our country and for all nations. Drive out those wolves in sheep's clothing who abuse the weak and scatter the flock. Come and save us; bring justice and peace.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O Lord, our God, we pray for this community of Saugus. Help us to see Christ neighbors, serving those who are hungry and thirsty, naked and lonely, sick or in prison.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O Lord, our God, we pray for loved ones who are sick, and remember the people of your pasture, especially George Gulliford; rescue the lost, bring up the broken, heal the sick, and feed those who hunger.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Loving Shepherd, lead and guide us in green pastures and by still waters, in right paths and through dark valleys, until we feast with you in glory and dwell in your house forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Invitation to Confession

With sincere and repentant hearts, let us name our sins against Christ and one another.

Sovereign God, we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm. You guide us toward right paths, but we refuse to follow where you lead. You love and feed and care for us, but we fail to love and serve others. Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your fold and rejoice in your presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Lamb upon the throne. Amen

Absolution

However long we wander, however far we stray, God's steadfast love endures forever. Sisters and brothers, be assured in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Anthem ~ Ride On, King Jesus

The Holy Communion

Prayer over the Gifts Holy

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right to do so.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

Celebrant Let us pray in the words of the One whose coming is certain and whose day draws near

People and Celebrant

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 Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The presider invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Anthem during Communion Contemplation

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, in this sacrament we have shared the body and blood of Christ. May we who have been nourished by holy things bear witness to his light, and share in his eternal priesthood; for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Celebrant Glory to God,
All whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or
 imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in
 Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen

The Blessing

You have been blessed. But do not count your blessings as special privileges that set you apart from others. Count them, rather, as unique gifts that bind you close to Christ in the least of your sisters and brothers.

Concluding Hymn #645 ~ *The King of Love, My Shepherd Is* (verses 1, 3, and 6)

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness
faileth never; I nothing lack if
I am his, and he is mine for ever.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet
in love he sought me, and on his shoulder
gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

And so through all the length of days thy goodness
faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I
sing thy praise within thy house for ever.

Dismissal

Looking forward to that final Day when God will be all in all, go in peace to love and serve
the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Prayer List

Maureen Burke, Annelies Caggiano, Gia Capello, Carolyn Chadsey, Jerry Dello Russo,
Don DiGiacomo, Oriol Pi-Sunyer, Jim Dockery, Jim & Tim Eldridge, Claire Errico,
Joanne Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Gary Goodwin, Estelle Heath, Bruce Higgins,
Michele Hoelzl, Janet Horrigan, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, (Baby) Autumn Ladder-Bush, Dennis
Lancaster, Janet Lancaster, Lisa Lancaster, Shane Maxwell, Matt, Lori M., Harriet Miraglia,
Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Debbie Rossetti, Bill St. Clair,
David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Jeanne Seaboyer, Bo Shaw, Ray Shaw, Malcolm Silva, Gail
Smith, Victoria Smith, Linda Sullivan, Meghan Tapley, Walter T., Susan Webb, Rachel W.,
and Candace Wormstead

Announcements

Wreath & Poinsettia Sale ~ Saturday, December 5th

Just a reminder that the deadline for orders is this **Wednesday, Nov. 25th**; please place your order online at st-johns-church-saugus.square.site, where you can also browse online fair tables or make a general donation.

As always, thank you for your support!

Office hours: Thanksgiving week

Please note: during Thanksgiving week, church office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday at the usual time, 8:30am - 1:30pm. However, the office will be closed for Thanksgiving and the Friday after, but voicemail will be checked for urgent messages on Friday.

St. John's Episcopal Church
The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge
([johntbeach\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:johntbeach(at)comcast.net) or 774*961*9881)

Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Sandy St. Clair, Worship Leader

8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906
Office: 781-233-1242 Email: StJohnsSaugus@gmail.com
Twitter: @StJohnsSaugus Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus
Website: www.StJohnsSaugus.org