



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
www.trinitylutheran.ca

November 24, 2024
Christ the King Sunday

Announcements

Juice boxes are still needed at Street Help Shelter. The Welcome Centre Shelter for Women needs granola bars, fruit rollup-type items and another snack item for snack packs for children at the centre. Please leave donated items on the table in the Narthex.

Brown Bag Bible Study concludes on November 27. The noontime study sessions will look at the coming Sunday's readings. Bring your lunch and we'll supply the coffee, tea or water. Join us for a deep and lively discussion. The series returns on March 5.

Coming Up

December 21 - Trinity's NEW tradition Christmas musical event will be the first offering in our new "Trinity Musical Arts Series." The premiere event begins at 2 p.m. and will feature a performance of the Academy Brass Quintet. This concert marks the beginning of our new ministry that builds upon Trinity's great musical tradition and aims to establish affordable music outreach to the community. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets are available in the church office and at the door.

We Remember in our Prayers

In Residence: Cordelle

Members: Bunny, Donna, Ed, Joan, Susan, Connie, Lorraine, Brenda

Friends & Family: Anna, Asdis, Audrey, Dot, Jean, Mary, Randy, Roger, Rose, Frank, Tanya, Nash, Jeff

Introduction to the day

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

Hymns

INSHALLAH # 40 God welcomes all

ELW #793 Be thou my vision

ELW #685 Take my life that I may be

ELW #638 Blessed Assurance

Prayer of the day

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

AMEN

First reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

⁹ As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne,
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure
wool;

his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten
thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

¹³ As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.



And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and
languages

should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting
dominion

that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Psalm 93

¹ The Lord is king, robed in majesty;
the Lord is robed in majesty and ¹ armed
with strength.

The Lord has made the world so
sure that it can- ¹ not be moved.

² **Ever since the world began, your
throne has ¹ been established;
you are from ¹ everlasting. R**

³ The waters have lifted up, O Lord,

the waters have lifted ^l up their voice;
the waters have lifted up
their ^l pounding waves.

⁴ **Mightier than the sound of many
waters, mightier than the breakers ^l of
the sea,**

**mightier is the Lord who ^l dwells
on high.**

⁵ Your testimonies are ^l very sure,
and holiness befits your house,
O Lord, forever and for- ^l evermore.

Second reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

^{4b} Grace to you and peace from him who
is and who was and who is to come, and
from the seven spirits who are before his
throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the
faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead,
and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us
from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made
us to be a kingdom, priests serving his
God and Father, to him be glory and
dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of
the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega,"
says the Lord God, who is and who was
and who is to come, the Almighty..

Gospel: John 18:33-37

³³ Pilate entered the headquarters again,
summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are
you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus

answered, "Do you ask this on your
own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵
Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I?
Your own nation and the chief priests
have handed you over to me. What have
you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My
kingdom is not from this world. If my
kingdom were from this world, my
followers would be fighting to keep me
from being handed over to the Jews. But
as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷
Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?"
Jesus answered, "You say that I am a
king. For this I was born, and for this I
came into the world, to testify to the
truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth
listens to my voice."

Sermon

Truthfully

*May God's grace be made known in
your lives today and always....*

I remember a hospital visit a few
years ago when I was at my last
congregation.

I was visiting a man who had been
admitted a couple of days earlier. He
hadn't been to church for a couple of
years, but he told the hospital chaplain
that he wanted a visit from his pastor.

The chaplain called to let me know I
was wanted at the hospital, and he
added:

"Bring the kit."

That meant that the man wanted
communion while I was there.

We chatted for a few minutes ... it was easy to see that he was tired ... all the tests had worn him out.

I opened the communion kit on the rolling tray at the side of his bed. I took out a wafer and placed it on the small plate ... I poured the wine ... and opened my pastoral book to begin the prayers.

Just then, two young women entered the room and came to the man's bedside. One had a couple of small towels ... the other had a wash basin with soapy water and a sponge. It was time for a quick cleaning.

The man asked if they could come back in a few minutes while he took communion from his pastor.

One of the women ... who was all of about 20 or 22 ... noticed the kit lying open on the tray.

"What's that?" she asked.

I told her it was my communion kit that I use for hospital and home visits.

"What's communion?" was her follow-up question.

There ... in the hospital room ... I offered a brief lesson on the sacraments ... punctuated with my business card and an invitation to check out the congregation if they felt so moved.

The man got more than he expected when he received communion that morning ... the women stayed to witness the ritual ... one of them even joined us in the Lord's Prayer. The community grew a bit in that hospital room.

It was ... as I regularly say here ... a good ministry day.

This morning's passage from John got me reminiscing about that moment from a few years ago ... when questions were asked ... when I testified and when we bore witness to God's place in our lives and in the life of the community ... and that community grew ... even it was just for just a few moments.

John shares part of the account of Jesus' betrayal ... persecution ... suffering ... and death ... with us this morning.

Usually, this passage is part of a longer lesson Good Friday reading as we follow Jesus to the cross.

But Pilate's questions and Jesus' answers provide a good conclusion to the church year ... and a solid jumping-off point for our coming Advent Season.

Jesus has been brought before Pilate ... the Roman governor of the region ... so that he can be found guilty of an offence and his presence in the region can be removed.

Pilate asks questions of Jesus ... hoping the answers will condemn him.

"Are you the King of the Jews?"

It is a question that would quickly settle matters for Pilate. If Jesus says "yes," then he could be identified as a revolutionary and as a threat to the empire. Pilate is thinking of earthly matters ... of power and politics ... of not divine concerns.

Jesus reframes Pilate's question ... and by doing so ... opens the door to new creation ... a new world ... for Pilate. But Pilate fails to understand.

Jesus tells Pilate that his kingdom is not of this world and that he has come into this world to testify to the truth. It is a truth that is both present and yet to come.

Pilate's words:

"What is the truth?" end this morning's passage.

... "What is the truth?"

Theologian Lamar Williamson Jr. wrote about this morning's passage.

He said that the writer of John's gospel realized that the "truth is what is real."

Williamson wrote:

"For Pilate, politics was real. For Jesus' accusers, religion was really real."

Jesus, on the other hand, is the truth.

The search for truth is not only about looking for the truth of Jesus, but also about looking for the truth within ourselves ... to consider what truth claims us ... is it the truth of Jesus Christ? Or is it the truth of something else that holds our hearts?

Are we even willing to accept the truth of Jesus?

Truth ... as much as we like to think otherwise ... is not the black-or-white-right-or-wrong concept that Pilate pursues in this scene from Jerusalem. Truth for him is what the world says makes sense ... what the world says is correct ... that truth is about power and wealth.

Jesus ... to the contrary ... shows that truth is irrational by the world's standards. His ministry is focused on the

least and lost. His power is claimed through love.

A king who is servant to all ... caring for strangers ... comforting and protecting foreigners ... loving your enemies ... forgiving trespasses and sins ... those actions go against the values of the earthly world.

Through Jesus ... truth then is a revelation. His ministry was about revealing the true nature of the world and because it does, it reveals to us what marks the kingdom of God.

It reveals the new creation that is possible through Jesus.

Christ the King Sunday marks the end of our church year. We begin a new year next Sunday.

This day was established almost 100 years ago as a time when congregations could affirm Christ's truth in their lives ... that forgiveness, grace and love are the truths of our lives.

These are the truths that restore us ... and have the power to restore lives around us ... and transform the world.

"How do I testify to the truth?" we might ask ourselves. Or even, "Do I testify to the truth?" Does our words and actions offer a different witness?

The answer might not come easy to us ... or be easy to hear.

Truth can be hard to accept says scholar Thomas Slater ... "we want the truth that convinces us, not the truth that convicts us; the truth that affirms us, not the truth that challenges us.

"Christ challenges us to look for destiny and truth from unusual people in

unusual places and to accept them even when acceptance makes us uncomfortable and challenges our assumptions.”

During the coming Advent Season ... as we move through the season’s darkness and toward the light that will come into the life of the world ... we have an opportunity to reflect upon the truth ... upon Jesus’ role in our lives.

Are we living a life of truth ... a life marked by love, forgiveness and grace ... and how do we bear witness to that truth ... modelling it for others and showing them a world marked by the truth.

It is a truth to be lived and shared as grace ... as love for one another ... bringing people into community ... even if it is just for a moment.

Our ministry and relationships should be consistent with the things that mark the reign of God.

In proclaiming the truth ... Jesus defied the political and religious authorities of the day ... how far are we willing to carry our own proclamation? Are we willing to speak an uncomfortable or unpopular truth or do we remain silent?

Perhaps, as John’s gospel stresses, truth lies within our relationships with God. This truth was made known to the world through Jesus’ ministry and acts of inclusion ... through his suffering, death and resurrection.

It is a love-filled truth ... a grace-filled truth ... that we are called to

embrace and to make known through our ministry ... our relationships with others and with the world.

It is the truth that will enter the world in a manger. Let us make the journey there together and carry the light out into the darkness of the world.

AMEN

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

Blessing

The Ancient One, enthroned,
the Crucified One, now risen,
the Indwelling One, poured out,
✠ bless you now and forever.

AMEN

EVEN MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS...

We are in the process of reviewing and updating our membership records. If you would like a visit from Pastor Chris, please call the church office and leave a message. Pastor Chris would be happy to visit and bring you communion, if you have difficulty attending church services.