

## LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

People of His Pasture

November 22, 2020

Today is the Last Sunday of the Church Year. This Sunday is traditionally filled with themes of Christ's roles as King and Judge. But consider these words from Psalm 95: "We are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand." We are God's chosen sheep. He is our Shepherd. We follow Him as He goes to seek the lost, bring back the stray, and bind up the injured.

### **"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" [LSB 348]**

1 The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes.

2 Not as of old a little child,  
To bear and fight and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun  
That lights the morning sky.

3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn  
When Christ, victorious rose  
And left the lonesome place of death  
Despite the rage of foes.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn  
Shall dawn upon our race  
The day when Christ in splendor comes  
And we shall see His face.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
Come quickly, King of kings!

### **PRAYER**

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **PSALM 95:1-7**

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup> Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! <sup>3</sup> For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. <sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. <sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it, and

his hands formed the dry land. <sup>6</sup> Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! <sup>7</sup> For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

### **HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 25:31–46*

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> 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, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,<sup>[a]</sup> you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup> “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. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup> 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.’ <sup>44</sup> 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?’ <sup>45</sup> 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.’ <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

“Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever.” (2 Chronicles 20:21)  
This statement is critically important when you consider what God’s steadfast love really entails. He is the “rock of our salvation!” This is important when we realize how temporary everything is as we experience it on a day to day basis. A rock in Scripture is a symbol of permanence. His love endures forever. Salvation is an expression of God’s love. His salvation is acted out in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus paid the price for our sin and by His resurrection sin, death, and Satan are proven to be defeated. By faith in Jesus we have God’s forgiveness and the promise of eternal life which come out of His steadfast love. No wonder we are invited to, “come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!” Why? “For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.” As Jesus says also in John 10:27, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” We follow Him receiving forgiveness unto eternal life, a steadfast promise of the rock of our salvation.

### **LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

**BENEDICTION**

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. Amen.