

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
San Antonio, Texas**

November 26, 2023

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost
Last Sunday of the Church Year**

Corporate Confession and Absolution: Pgs. 290-291

NOTES: Offerings will not be collected by passing plates. Please place your attendance cards and offering in the plates located by the narthex.

We offer large print copies of the liturgy, and for Holy Communion we offer gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic white grape juice.

Masks are not required, but you can wear one at your own discretion. There is no specified seating for bible class or worship.

Prelude

The Opening Hymn:

“Lift High the Cross” – LSB # 837

Invocation Litany: Pg. 290

The Readings:

The First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-24

¹¹ “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will

pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴ I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. ¹⁷ “As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats. ¹⁸ Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? ¹⁹ Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet? ²⁰ “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, ²² I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. ²³ I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, 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 he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. ²⁸ When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Congregation: Glory to You, O Lord!

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come,

you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ ³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him,

‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’ ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?

³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ ⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ ⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ ⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ ⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message Hymn:

“Have No Fear, Little Flock” – LSB # 735

The Message:

Congregational Prayers:

(**Pastor:** Lord, in your mercy,)

(**Congregation:** Hear our prayer.)

The 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

Confession and Absolution is a return to our Baptisms. In Confession, we take all our sins and throw them back into the baptismal font, burying them with Christ, washing them away in his blood. Then in Absolution, the forgiveness of Baptism is brought to us again, so that we may live new, resurrected lives today (**Romans 6:4**).

Confession and Absolution in our services reflect the experience of Isaiah in a vision (**Isaiah 6:1–8**). He was in God's presence in the Temple. He was terrified to be there because he knew he was a sinner (Confession). An angel touched his lips with a coal and told him he was forgiven – purified (Absolution). Only then was he able to serve the Lord in gladness (“Here I am. Send me.”).

The Confessional Address with Words of Institution, followed by Confession and Absolution: Pgs. 290-291

Pre-Communion Hymn:

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise” – LSB # 680

Holy Communion:

Please come up single file, socially distanced, in the center aisle. Pastor will distribute both the bread and wine, prompting you for each element. We have gluten-free wafers available, and we have non-alcoholic white grape juice in the center of the tray. After you are dismissed, please return down the side aisle(s).

The Blessing: Pg. 291

The Closing Hymn:

“Christ, the Word of God Incarnate” – LSB # 540

Announcements:

Postlude

Please take the bulletin home or discard in the trash before you leave.