

11-26-23 Opening Hymn *Crown Him With Many Crowns #494*

1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne; Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own; awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

2 Crown him the Son of God before the worlds began, and ye, who tread where he hath trod, crown him the Son of man; who every grief hath known that wrings the human breast, and takes and bears them for his own, that all in him may rest.

3 Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave, and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save; his glories now we sing who died, and rose on high, who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

4 Crown him of lords the Lord, who over all doth reign, who once on earth, the incarnate Word, for ransomed sinners slain, now lives in realms of light, where saints with angels sing their songs before him day and night, their God, Redeemer, King.

5 Crown him the Lord of heaven, enthroned in worlds above; Crown him the King, to whom is given the wondrous name of Love. Crown him with many crowns, as thrones before him fall, crown him, ye kings, with many crowns, for he is King of all.

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One.

Have mercy on us

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

The Lessons

Introduction: The prophecy of Ezekiel was primarily for the people of his day who were taken into captivity after the Temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed around the year 587 BC. Ezekiel's oracles were expressed in terms that the people knew and understood. Their purpose was to bring hope when all hope was gone and to bring guidance when the very reason for living was unclear. Today's message is that the people of God would never be abandoned no matter what calamity might confront them.

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel *Ezk 34:11-16, 20-24*

The Lord God proclaims: I myself will search for my flock and seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out the flock when some in the flock have been scattered, so will I seek out my flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered during the time of clouds and thick darkness. I will gather and lead them out from the countries and peoples, and I will bring them to their own fertile land. I will feed them on Israel's highlands, along the riverbeds, and in all the inhabited places. I will feed them in good pasture, and their sheepfold will be there, on Israel's lofty highlands. On Israel's highlands, they will lie down in a secure fold and feed on green pastures. I myself will feed my flock and make them lie down. This is what the Lord God says. I will seek out the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the wounded, and strengthen the weak. But the fat and the strong I will destroy, because I will tend my sheep with justice.

The Lord God proclaims to them: I will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. You shove with shoulder and flank, and with your horns you ram all the weak sheep until you have scattered them outside. But I will rescue my flock so that they will never again be prey. I will even judge between the sheep! I will appoint for them a single shepherd, and he will feed them. My servant David will feed them. He will be

their shepherd. I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be their prince. I, the Lord, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The psalm reading for this morning is from Psalm 100.

Be joyful in the Lord, all you people;

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

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.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians *Ep 1:15-23*

I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that I do not stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among

believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn *O Christ the Word Incarnate* #632

O Christ, the Word Incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth, unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky;
we praise thee for the radiance that from the scripture's
page, a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew.

Glory to you Lord Christ. *Matthew 25:1-13*

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gradual Hymn

The Church from our dear Master received the word divine, and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine. It is the chart and compass that o'er life's surging sea, mid mists and rocks and quicksands, still guides, O Christ, to thee.

The Sermon

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

Let us pray for the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Doug, our bishop; for the leaders of all the houses of prayer especially for those on our island: Stephen, Julia, Robert, Brock, and Ken; for our clergy: David, Maggie and Fred; and for all ministers and people, and especially the churches affected by war.

Pray for the Church. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. We pray for Israel, Palestine, Ukraine and all areas in our world that are torn apart by war.

Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for Downs IV, Holden, Anne, Victoria, Anne Louise, Kim, Michael, Barbara, Lorraine, Josh & Mary Jo, Maria Christine and Pam. For those going through cancer treatments, especially, Margaret, Downs III, Victoria, Alex, Connie, Douglas, Frank, Gerta, Lauren, Heather, Jennifer, TJ, Jim, Stephanie and Cara. Visit and comfort all who are under the care of skilled nursing, especially Timothy, Barbara, Kim and Lou. Be near to all who are in hospice care especially Jean. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed especially those we name now.

Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, now and for ever.

Amen.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Greetings, Announcements and Introductions

Offertory Anthem *Rejoice! Give Thanks and Sing!*

Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore! For Christ has robbed death's sting and triumphs evermore. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice. Our Savior Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love; The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power above. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice. Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come, and take the faithful up to their eternal home. We soon hear a heavenly voice above the trumpet's sound, "Rejoice!"

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Eucharist

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of
glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of
interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their
courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human
race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You
made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you,
and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets
and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the

fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Bring us to your Table for solace and strength; for pardon and for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, **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.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. **Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* (vs. 1, 3, 4) #460

Alleluia! sing to Jesus! his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone; Hark! the
songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood; Jesus out
of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! bread of Heaven, Thou on earth our food, our stay!
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for
me, where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the
crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal, thee the Lord of lords we own:
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth thy footstool, heaven thy
throne: thou within the veil hast entered, robed in flesh, our
great High Priest: thou on earth both Priest and Victim in
the eucharistic feast.

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia