

## **-Christ the King Sunday/Thankoffering**

November 21, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska

Rev. Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

*The Women of the ELCA's Thankofferings will be received this morning. We recognize and appreciate them for their continuing work in the church and community.*

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

We gather together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN: "Come, You Thankful People, Come" LBW 407, vv. 1,3

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gracious gift of baptism.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land. By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray...

**O God of justice and love, you light our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8 (*The offering of justice, kindness, humility*)

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. 'O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.' 'With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin

of my soul?' He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God)

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (*Noisy offering is taken at this time.*)

*(Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.)*

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12 (*The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes*)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

*As we make our Thankofferings today, we share in a tradition that goes back to the 1800s or even earlier. Then, when it seemed that there was not enough money to carry out the work of the church, the women would act together as "cent" or "mite" societies. Each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year in thanksgiving for blessings received. And on occasion, the women would come together as we do today, joining their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds.*

*When Women of the ELCA was formed in 1987, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the*

*life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come, let us now give our thankoffering.*

HYMN OF THE DAY: **“Praise and Thanksgiving” LBW 409**

OFFERING PRAYER

**God of grace, you have showered us with gifts of grace and abundance, entrusting to us the ministries of Women of the ELCA and American Lutheran Church, Filley. Help us to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Accept these gifts and our prayer that, nurtured by your Word, filled with your Spirit, and fed at your table, we may share with gladness all that you have shared with us, until all creation is satisfied. Amen.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the renewal of the church, for those in need, and for all of God's creation.

We pray, holy God, for the unity of the church universal: Draw your people together into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ to carry out his holy mission, together sharing the good news of your justice and love wherever we are sent. Christ, be our light.

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

We pray, omnipotent God, for the well-being of creation: We give you thanks for transforming the chaotic waters of creation into the saving waters that nourish and sustain all the earth. Renew us every day by your water and your word. Christ, be our light.

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

We pray, righteous God, for peace and justice in the world: Lead the nations of the world away from the stony wilderness of sin, and toward the holy light of love, justice, and peace. Christ, be our light.

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

We pray, compassionate God, for all in need: For those who hunger and thirst for peace, for belonging, for love, for righteousness, shine your light of justice. For those who mourn or suffer in any way, shine your light of comfort. Christ, be our light.

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

We pray, faithful God, for the renewal of all life: Refresh us with your living water and anoint us with your Holy Spirit. Embolden us with your promise and your presence. Christ, be our light.

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

Receive our thanksgiving, eternal God, for all who have died in the faith. May we know the fullness of the new life that you prepare for us in your kingdom. Christ, be our light.

**Shine in your church gathered today.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

P: Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit; in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Now together, let us join the countless numbers across the centuries who have prayed as our Lord instructed us to pray. . .

## 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.**

## THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN: **LBW 197, LBW 224, LBW 235**

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

**All: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: **"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" LBW 221**

## SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

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**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Helen Fritzen, Dustin Fritch, Sara Miley and our shut-ins.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Ellie Snyder, Sofia Snyder (Nov. 21) Brenda Nouzovsky (Nov 23) Courtney Eltiste, Henry Lenner (Nov. 24) Avery Busing, Kent Hippen (Nov. 26),

**SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS** to Henry Lenner who will celebrate his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday November 24.

**HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** to Bill and Sarah Harder (Nov 23, 2007) Scott and Brenda Nouzovsky (Nov. 25,1994) Larry and Ann Weyers (Nov 26, 1967)

**COOKIES, COCOA, & HELPERS** are needed for the stone Barn Christmas on Dec. 5 Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you can help.

**MERCY MEALS** Will be held December 6 from 4-6 pm at Odell Community Building. Sign up sheet will be in the back of church.

**STONE BARN MEETING** will be held after worship this morning. Anyone interested in helping is welcome.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** to everyone who brought in food for the Thanksgiving Food Drive Challenge this year. Your donations to this ministry are much appreciated! We will let you know the count of food items in coming bulletins/newsletter.

**SUNMART RECEIPTS:** Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called "Support Our Schools and Churches." All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our goal of \$150,000 two times so far and are starting over again with a balance of about **\$65,000.00**. You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don't want and give them out – first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE:** You can find our church website at [www.filleylutheranchurch.com](http://www.filleylutheranchurch.com) or by scanning this QR code:



**BULLETIN ITEMS** are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call or text Britan Meints at (308)-730-0599 or email her at [britanrace@gmail.com](mailto:britanrace@gmail.com)

**BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND** on our website, [filleylutheranchurch.com](http://filleylutheranchurch.com). Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Britan at [britanrace@gmail.com](mailto:britanrace@gmail.com) with your email address.

**COMING UP:**

Every Wednesday – BeLoved/Confirmation, 4:00-5:30 p.m. (no classes on Nov. 24, Dec. 22, Dec. 29)

Sunday, Nov. 28 – First Sunday in Advent

Monday, Dec. 6 – Mercy Meals

**WORSHIP HELPERS:**

**Transitional Minister** – Pastor Jonathan Jensen, 402-768-3665

**Council** – Dave Norton-President (402-520-3555), Virgil Jobman-Vice President (402-310-6339), Carol Frerichs-Secretary (402-223-7919), Brenda Hippen-Treasurer (402-688-4466), Linda Searcey-at large (402-223-8237).

**Reader:** Susan Frerichs; **Next Week**

**PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter** – Brenda Hippen

**Accompanist:** Sandy Mahler

**Fellowship:** Karen Mortenson **Next Week** Sandy Flessner