

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

2695 S. Franklin St., Denver, Colorado 80210

303-722-1424 / email:marcella@christlutherandenver.org

[www.christlutherandenver.org](http://www.christlutherandenver.org)

[www.christlutheraneccl.org](http://www.christlutheraneccl.org)



## MISSION STATEMENT:

*In response to God's love for us, we SERVE God,  
SUPPORT Christian fellowship,  
And SPREAD the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people*

Volume 76

November 22, 2020

No. 47

## LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

9:00 AM

**AS WE GATHER**— 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.

### PRESERVICE MUSIC

*"Wayfaring Stranger"*

by David Paxton

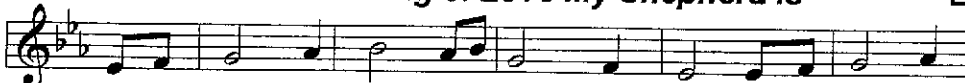
### WELCOME

♫ [Means please stand; ♪ Means please be seated]

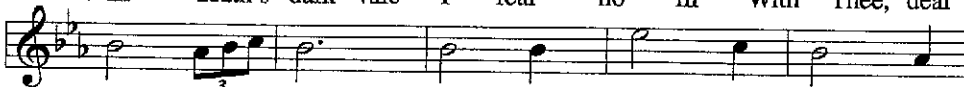
### ♫ OPENING HYMN

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

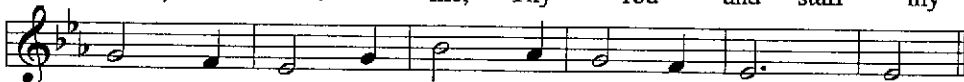
LSB 709



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed  
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant  
love He sought me And on His shoul - der  
Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.  
com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
And, oh, what transport of delight  
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6. And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise  
Within Thy house forever!

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## INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 95:1-3a, 6-7

**P** *In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;*

**C** **let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

**P** *Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving!*

**C** **For the LORD is a great God.**

**P** *Oh come, let us worship and bow down.*

**C** **For He is our God,**

**P** *and we are the people of His pasture,*

**C** **and the sheep of His hand.**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

**P** *Indeed, our heavenly Father has called us to be His people. He has led us to green pastures and still waters. Yet, there have been times when we have treated our fellow sheep with disdain, when we have wandered away from our Shepherd. But our Good Shepherd does not abandon us, and we confess our sins before Him and one another.*

[Silence for reflection]

**P** *Heavenly Father,*

**C** **we confess that we have wandered away from You. We confess that we have acted shamefully toward our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might follow You to the green pastures and still waters of everlasting life.**

**P** *Our heavenly Father has heard Your confession and sent His only Son, Jesus, to be our Good Shepherd. Jesus searches for each one of His sheep. He brings back those who have strayed. He binds up the injured. He even lays down His life for the sheep. By Christ's death and resurrection, God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C** **Amen. We are sought by our Shepherd. We are forgiven in Christ.**

## INTROIT

*Psalm 39:4-5a, 7-8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV*

**P** *In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,*

**C** **the home of righteousness.**

**P** *O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;*

**C** **let me know how fleeting I am!**

**P** *Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,*

**C** **and my lifetime is as nothing before you.**

**P** *And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?*

**C** **My hope is in you.**

- P** *Deliver me from all my transgressions.*
- C** **Do not make me the scorn of the fool!**
- P** *Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!*
- C** **For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.**

**All:** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

- P** *In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,*
- C** **the home of righteousness.**

### **SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY**

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** *Let us pray.*

**All:** **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.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

**Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24**

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

- P** *This is the Word of the Lord.*
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **EPISTLE LESSON**

**1 Corinthians 15:20–28**

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

- P** *This is the Word of the Lord.*
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

**Matthew 25:31–46**

- P** *The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.*

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

- P** *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense**

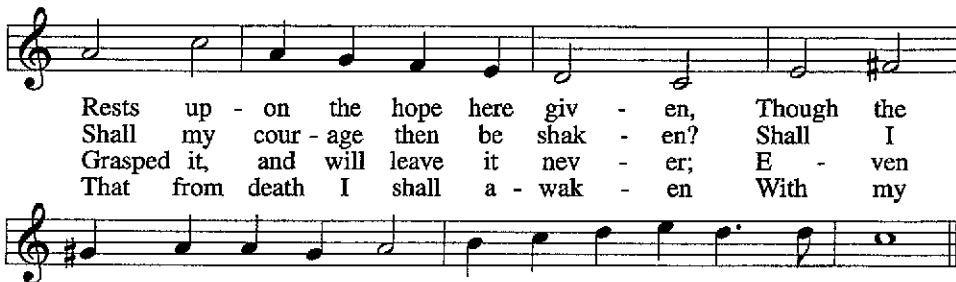
**LSB 741**



1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de - fense And my Sav - ior, now is  
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, lives; Like - wise I to life shall  
 3 No, too close - ly I am bound By my hope to Christ for -  
 4 I am flesh and must re - turn To the dust, whence I am



liv - ing! Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence  
 wak - en. He will bring me where He is;  
 ev - er; Faith's strong hand the Rock has found,  
 tak - en; But by faith I now dis - cern



night of death be fraught Still with man - y an anx - ious thought.  
 fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His mem - bers dead?  
 death now can - not part From its Lord the trust - ing heart.  
 Sav - ior to a - bide In His glo - ry, at His side.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>5. Glorified, I shall anew<br/>         With this flesh then be enshrouded;<br/>         In this body I shall view<br/>         God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;<br/>         In this flesh I then shall see<br/>         Jesus Christ eternally.</p> <p>6. Then take comfort and rejoice,<br/>         For His members Christ will cherish.<br/>         Fear not, they will hear His voice;<br/>         Dying, they will never perish;<br/>         For the very grave is stirred<br/>         When the trumpet's blast is heard.</p> | <p>7. Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave<br/>         And at death no longer tremble;<br/>         He, the Lord, who came to save<br/>         Will at last His own assemble.<br/>         They will go their Lord to meet,<br/>         Treading death beneath their feet.</p> <p>8. O, then, draw away your hearts<br/>         From all pleasures base and hollow;<br/>         Strive to share what He imparts<br/>         While you here His footsteps follow.<br/>         As you now still wait to rise,<br/>         Fix your hearts beyond the skies!</p> |
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**SERMON** *THE SHEPHERD KING* **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

- I. The image of a Shepherd King that Ezekiel uses seems like a contradiction.
  - a. Shepherds are poor and humble.
  - b. Kings are rich and powerful.
- II. But Jesus is a true Shepherd King.
  - a. He gathers His scattered flock like a shepherd.
  - b. He rules His Church as a wise, loving king.

**APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I** believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** Dear heavenly Father, You promise to seek the lost. We pray for all those who have wandered away from Your Church. We pray that You would strengthen us to reach out to them, to receive them with open arms and open hearts when they return home. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C Give ear to our cry.**

**P** Lord, You promise to strengthen the weak. Send Your strength and courage to all those who need it, to the aging, the lonely, the tired, and the vulnerable. Protect and defend them from the wolves of this world. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C Give ear to our cry.**

**P** Lord, You promise to feed Your sheep with good pasture. Raise up faithful servants and shepherds to share the nourishment of Your Word and Sacraments with all Your sheep. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C Give ear to our cry.**

**P** Lord, You promise to rescue Your flock from all enemies. Guard and keep us from the enemies of sin, death, and Satan. Lead us away from temptation and always closer to the arms of our Good Shepherd. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C Give ear to our cry.**

**P** Lord, You promise to bind up the injured. Bring Your healing to all those who suffer now through injury, illness, and oppression, [especially . . .]. Heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C Give ear to our cry.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** 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

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

**C Amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN

### Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

LSB 706



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing, Bind - ing faith - ful  
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing, Clothed in Christ's hu -  
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er, Faint - ing not when



hearts in one; Love in Christ is true and giv - ing.  
mil - i - ty, Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,  
ills at - tend; Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May His will in us be done.  
 Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.  
 Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**POSTLUDE**

***“Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense”***

**by Paul Manz**

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Roger C. Wohletz, Pastor..... 720-283-8128 / email: [pastorroger@christlutherandenver.org](mailto:pastorroger@christlutherandenver.org)  
 Renee Ortado, ECC Director / Preschool Teacher.. 303-828-6735 / email: [renee@christlutherandenver.org](mailto:renee@christlutherandenver.org)  
 Beth Buss, Music Director.....970-778-5696 / email: [bethbuss4@gmail.com](mailto:bethbuss4@gmail.com)  
 Rob Hatton, Congregation Chairman ..... 303-906-9395 / email: [roberthatton1@googlemail.com](mailto:roberthatton1@googlemail.com)

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**WE WISH TO THANK** the following for their participation in our worship service this morning:

Altar Guild..... Marilyn Kettner & Beth Tevah  
 Counter..... Carl Kurth  
 Elder on Duty..... Doug Harder  
 Organist / Music Director..... Beth Buss  
 Sanitation CEO (Clean Every Object)..... Al Axford  
 Service Web Recorder..... Robert Showalter  
 Service Live Streaming..... Stuart Ruwet  
 Usher ..... Phil Vandre

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