



## BLESSED SACRAMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Jesus does not say that the coming kingdom is compared to this or that, as he has been speaking previously, but now openly shows himself to be the Son of Man, who ‘shall come in his glory.’ If he has up to now appeared in a condition of dishonor, now he appears in a different role. He reproaches. He confronts. He sits upon his throne of glory.” — St. John Chrysostom, Homily 79.1

Dear Saints,

Sunday of the Fulfillment

21 Nov. 2020

The Sunday of the Fulfillment is the last Sunday of the church year. On this Sunday, the church looks forward to the time when everyone and everything in heaven and on earth will be together under one head, the Lord Jesus Christ, as St. Paul says in Ephesians 1.9-10: “[The Father is] making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on the earth.”

This festival is a day of fulfillment in two senses. It fulfills the liturgical year by bringing it to an end and returns us once again to the season of Advent. More importantly, it calls on the church to look with vigilance and faithfulness for the second coming of the Lord Jesus to take His redeemed people into paradise and then, ultimately, into heaven on earth. This is the fulfillment for which all Christians yearn when they pray, “Thy Kingdom come.” Lastly, the festival is the fulfillment of the basic Christian confession, “Jesus is Lord.” Together as the people of God’s kingdom we, as Jews and Gentiles, men and women, old and young, confess that the prophet from Nazareth is in fact the King of the world, the One to whom all authority over heaven and earth has been given (Matthew 29.18).

In many churches, the Sunday of the Fulfillment is celebrated as the Festival of Christ the King. The lectionary readings for the last few Sundays after Pentecost center on the biblical teachings concerning the final judgment, end times, and Christ’s second coming to usher in the kingdom of glory. The Sunday of the Fulfillment is related to Advent in the follow way:

- Advent is a season of preparation as we anticipate the coming of our Lord.
- Since the Sunday of the Fulfillment focuses on the longing of every Christian for the coming of Christ’s Kingdom, this day is a transitional festival that brings the church to the first Sunday of Advent, the theme of which is the second coming of Christ. This watchful longing is summarized in the appointed prayer for the Sunday of the Fulfillment:

Lord God, heavenly Father, Send forth Your Son, we pray,  
That He may lead home His bride, the Church,  
That we, with all the redeemed, May enter into Your eternal kingdom.  
Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Amen.

|  |         |                       |                       |              |                 |                                     |
|--|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
|  | Nov. 22 | S. Of the Fulfillment | Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24 | Psalm 95     | 1 Cor. 15:20-28 | Matt 25:31-46                       |
| <b>Series B starts here: Advent 2020</b> |         |                       |                       |              |                 |                                     |
| <b>ADVENT</b>                            | Nov. 29 | First S. in Advent    | Is. 64:1-9            | Psalm 80:1-7 | 1 Cor. 1:3-9    | Mark 11:1-10<br>or<br>Mark 13:24-37 |

This past week the Church Calendar hallmarked the commemoration of St. Elizabeth of Hungary (19 Nov.) who lived in the Castle Wartburg, where Martin Luther was absconded and translated the New Testament into German.

**Sunday Mass.** Proper 29. Color white. Sermon: “Separated Sheep from Goats.” Processional: **670**; Hymn of Praise: **This is the Feast**; Hymn of the Day: **633**; Recessional: **802**. Psalm **95** will be chanted responsively during the distribution. Post-Communion Canticle: **Thank the Lord**.

**First Holy Communion.** Be sure to congratulate our First Holy Communion recipients today: Joseph Eric Fourroux, Noah Kanthack MacPherson, Ethan Kanthack MacPherson, Luke Kanthack MacPherson, Zoe Grace Sousa, Wolfgang David Sousa, and Luther Gabriel Sousa. Praise be to God that the table of the Lord has growth. Thank you to the Fourroux, MacPherson, Kanthack families of their commitment to this course of study.

**Catechesis.** Sunday catechesis for all will take place from 0900 - 0945. We will continue with the 10th lesson in “Loving the Liturgy.”

**Prayers for the saints in our midst.** Sandi, a friend of the Drake family; the mother of Jennifer Hass; the Rev. Dr. Charles Cortright (Pr Bombaro’s colleague in Rīga); Samantha’s upcoming surgery; Ken Adams; the persecuted church in Pakistan; our First Holy Communion catechumens; and those suffering and effected by the current outbreak of Covid.

**Resources.** Blessed Sacrament has benefit from a series of donations, including several sets of paraments, communion ware, a pulpit, and even an organ. We are expecting three shipments of gifts to the parish in the next couple of weeks, including a processional cross and prei dei. Many, many thanks to the MacPherson family for organizing the pick up of many items and temporarily storing them, along with John and Helena Pickering storing an electronic organ.

There are many excellent hymns in LBS for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. We will use the following during the coming seasons (Yes, some Christmas hymns will appear in Advent): LSB Advent 331, 332, 338, 348, 350, 352, 355, 356, 357, Christmas 358, 359, 361, 362, 363, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 374, 376, 377, 379, 380, 384, 386, 387, 393. Families are strongly encouraged to order copies of the Lutheran Service Book from Concordia Publishing House for singing and devotions at home.

Gratefully yours in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor John