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**Christ the King Sunday November 20, 2022 Video**

*Good morning. This is Richfield Lutheran Church’s video worship service for Christ the King Sunday, November 20. I’m Pastor Brian, with me today are Paul on the organ and Mary as our soloist.*

*Our gospel is Luke 23:33-43.*  *The prophet Jeremiah’s promise of the execution of “justice and righteousness in the land” finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.*

**I. GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Gathering song** *Crown Him with Many Crowns* **# 855, vv 1 & 3**

1 Crown him with many crowns,

 the Lamb upon his throne;

 hark, how the heav'nly 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.

3 Crown him the Lord of love--

 behold his hands and side,

 rich wounds, yet visible above,

 in beauty glorified.

 No angels in the sky

 can fully bear that sight,

 but downward bend their burning eyes

 at mysteries so bright.

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**II. WORD**

**Gospel: Luke 23:33-43.** *(*Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one’s life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God’s hands*.)*

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 23rd chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

33When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.  34Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing.  35And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”  36The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” 38There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

39One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”  40But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?  41And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”  42Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** *Paradise Kingdom* Pr Brian

**Hymn of the Day** *Beautiful Savior* **# 838, vv 1 & 4**

1 Beautiful Savior,

 King of creation,

 Son of God and Son of Man!

 Truly I'd love thee,

 truly I'd serve thee,

 light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

4 Beautiful Savior,

 Lord of the nations,

 Son of God and Son of Man!

 Glory and honor,

 praise, adoration,

 now and forevermore be thine!

**Prayers of Intercession**

United with your saints across time and place, we pray for our shared world.

*(A brief silence.)*

We pray for your church. Embolden denominations and faith-based organizations in creative and collaborative ministries and increase our work for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth. Protect waterways from pollution and animal habitats from destruction. Guide us in careful stewardship of waters, plant life, and animals. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Instill in every leader’s heart a desire for justice and peace. Support the work of international collaborations that seek the goals of health and joy for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who are undermined or oppressed. Amplify the voices of the unheard and break open stubborn systems of injustice. Bring about your righteousness and fill us all with your redeeming light. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Guide our leaders in discernment, and nurture new leaders with fresh ideas. Give this congregation a spirit of discipleship and service. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

*(A brief silence.)*

We give thanks for all who have died in the faith. Console us who mourn and comfort us with the beautiful promise of life in your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Accept these prayers, gracious God, and those known only to you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**III. THANKSGIVING**

**Offering**

*You can support this and other of God’s ministries through Richfield Lutheran Church today through our website: Richfield dash Lutheran, dot org, slash give. Thank you for your faithful generosity.*

**Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**IV. SENDING**

*This Christ the King Sunday, November 20, in addition to this video recording and its phone-in option, we have in-person worship at 9:30, and the Crosstown Band is sharing special music! Afterwards, we share fellowship in Coffee Hour.*

*Next Sunday, November 27, is the First Sunday of Advent, our gospel reading is Matthew 24:36-44.* Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

*Until then, go forth with God’s blessing.*

**Blessing**

The God of peace, who creates all things and calls them good, who makes us alive in Jesus, and who breathes on us the Spirit of hope, ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*  **# 502, vv 1 & 6**

1 The King of love my shepherd is,

 whose goodness faileth never;

 I nothing lack if I am his

 and he is mine forever.

6 And so, through all the length of days,

 thy goodness faileth never.

 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise

 within thy house forever.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Be a blessing in the world.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**Richfield Lutheran Church’s annual stewardship ministry drive is this month.** We remember that God keeps “in touch” with us through Word, baptism, communion, prayer, and throughout our relationships. In response to God’s grace, we are called to be “in touch” with all the world and be a blessing through sharing of our abundant blessings. Our responses are fittingly received today, on Christ the King Sunday. Stewardship is not about our budget for next year, but rather it is basking in God’s graceful embrace and responding to his call to live into the Kingdom of God in the here and now.

**This Week’s Daily Bible Readings:**

Monday, November 21. Psalm 24

Tuesday, November 22. Revelation 22:8-21

Wednesday, November 23. Isaiah 60:8-16

Thursday, November 24. John 2:1-11

Friday, November 25. Isaiah 2:1-5

Saturday, November 26. Romans 13:11-14

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