

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Sunday, November 23, 2025
24th Sunday after Pentecost

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.

Welcome & Announcements

Temple Talk

Vera Hartman

***Confession and Forgiveness**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,
**you have shown us the ways of your heart,
yet we stray from your paths.
We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression
and do not embrace the freedom
of your faithful promises.
We ignore our neighbors.
We exploit the earth.
We reject your abundance,
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.
Repair our relationships,
restore what we have broken,
renew our hearts,
and bring us to new life.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:
God the Faithful One loves you,
✠ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.
Amen.

***Hymn**

Crown Him With Many Crowns

ELW 855

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

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie**

pg 138

***Glory to God**

pg 140

***Prayer of the Day**

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.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ² Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. ⁵ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called:

“The Lord is our righteousness.”

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 46

¹ God is our ref-¹uge and strength,
a very present¹ help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the¹ earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths¹ of the sea;**

³ though its waters¹ rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble¹ with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-¹y of God,
the holy habitation of¹ the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall¹ not be shaken;
God shall help it at the¹ break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the¹ kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth¹ melts away.**

⁷ The Lord of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works¹ of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought up-¹ on the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in¹ all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the¹ shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that¹ I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted¹ in the earth.”**

¹¹ The Lord of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold

Second Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

***Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)**

pg 142

***Gospel: Luke 23:33-43**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 23rd chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

³³ When 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. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And 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!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

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

P: The gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Brian Bidleman

***Hymn**

Beautiful Savior

ELW 838

***Apostles Creed**

pg 105

*** Prayers of Intercession**

Hear us, O God

your mercy is great.

***Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

Offering: *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you. Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.*

***Offering prayer**

God of healing and hope,
you bless those who are hungry,
promising to fill them with good things.
Fulfill that promise through us. Nourish us with the abundance and unite us into the
blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,
now and forever.

Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

***Blessing**

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.
The holy Trinity bless you ✠
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart
now and forever.

Amen.

***Hymn**

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share your gifts.
Thanks be to God.

Assisting in Worship

Presider: Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

Assisting: Pastor Jim McColley

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Nancy Hamilton

Ushers: Craig Hamilton, Viv Nore, Karla Berg, Terry Hansen

Tech: Mark Oester