

November 21, 2021 – 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Reign of Christ Sunday

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 421 - "Come, O Thankful People, Come" - The spirit of Thanksgiving is embodied in this traditional hymn

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Rejoice in the light of the morning! Give thanks for the sun's energy, even through the clouds!

Congregation: God has spoken to us and meets us here. We live in covenant with the Eternal One.

Liturgist: Gather in the spirit of Jesus, whose name we bear! Thank God for truth that lives in spite of death!

Congregation: We celebrate the faithful witness of Jesus Christ. We seek to share the good news that Christ reigns.

Liturgist: The Spirit encounters us here so that we might learn. The Spirit inspires us so that we might serve.

Congregation: God anoints us for ministry, giving us tasks to do. God's word is on our tongues, that the world may believe.

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 300 - "Jesus Shall Reign" - Connected to the reading from Revelations, this hymn says, "God's realm shall stretch from shore to shore till moons shall wax and wane no more."

Confession of Sin

Loving God, we confess that we have been more like thorn bushes than oaks of righteousness. We sometimes repel rather than attract others to the gospel. Pride and deceit fill our days more than grace and peace. We tire of satisfying the poor with bread and upholding the covenant and decrees you have offered us. We turn away from your anointed one, questioning his role in history and his relevance for us. We admit that our inner faith battles are often the screen we use to keep from facing our sin, admitting our guilt and seeking reconciliation. Open our eyes, heal our open wounds, and embrace us in your love so that we might be forgiven. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri (Instrumental)

Old Testament Lesson – 2 Samuel 23:1-7

Hymn of Praise (Video) - "A Harvest of Thanksgiving" by Joys Lo

Children's Sermon

Lesson from Revelation – Revelation 1:4b-8

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory - NCH 283 - "Spirit of the Living God" - Daniel Iverson was inspired to write this while attending a revival service in 1926. It closes with "Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me."

Gospel Lesson – John 18:33-37

Sermon

Closing Hymn - NCH 419 - "Nun danket alle Gott" which is translated to "Now Thank We All Our God." Mendelssohn's harmonies elevate Rinkart's hymn to great levels. It was originally penned during the Thirty Year's War in 1647.

Benediction

Postlude