

## Good Shepherd Community Church

Advent 4, Gathering unto Him

December 22, 2019

### The Cup

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave thanks; he gave it to them, saying, *“Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

Draw near with faith. **Christ is the host and we are his guests.**

### Communion Hymn

Hymn – “You Are Coming O My Savior”

### Sharing of the Cup

May the blood of Jesus Christ which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s blood was shed for you and be thankful.

*Prayer: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, as we take this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death until your come in power to complete our redemption. Amen.*

*The Apostle Paul tells us that whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

**Charge:** Be alert! *The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.*

Closing Hymn- “Here from All the Nations”

**Benediction-** *The God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.* 1 Thessalonians 3:11ff

:\* Some sections Adapted from various sources.

### Gathering unto God

Salutation - *Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.* 1Cor. 1:3

### Call to Worship-

*“Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”*

**Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name?**

**For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.**

Hymn- “Christ Is Coming! Let Creation” (Neander)

Invocation

Pastor Jeff

Prayer

All

**Almighty God, we lift our hearts to you, and our eyes are fixed upon your unchanging glory. We rejoice in the promise of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power and majesty. Hallelujah!**

Hymn- “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” (Hyfrydol)

### Confession of Sin

We give thanks to you, Redeemer God, for our Lord Jesus Christ, who came in quietness and humility, but will come again with power for all to see. Our Lord Jesus’ coming again is a two-edged sword. It comforts us, and it convinces us anew that your grace is beyond measure. Yet it also confronts us and compels us to recognize our own unrighteousness. Let us put aside our false pride, confess our sins, and receive your affirming love.

**Gracious Father, we confess that all too often we do not think of our coming King. We do not live our lives in the expectant waiting to which your Word summons us. Too often we do not live with the sense of urgency for the task you have set before your church. We put off bringing the gospel to the world and living out your kingdom’s values of justice and righteousness. Forgive us, loving Lord. Cleanse us and fill us with your Spirit and with power, so that at Christ’s triumphant return we may be unashamed to stand before you with people of all tongues and nations. Amen.**

Thanks be to God, who has loved us from the beginning, and who promises that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and will purify us from all unrighteousness.

**Our Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from the earth. In that day we will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. Let us rejoice in his salvation.”**

### **We Sing before the Lord**

*Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Sing before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth in righteousness and the peoples in his truth. Ps. 96*

Hymn- When Jesus Comes in Glory

Hymn- He Will Come, the Lord of Glory

### **We Read the Sacred Writings**

*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. (John 17:17)*

First Testament: Genesis 49:1-2, 8-12

Psalm 98

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Gospel: Matthew 24:29-31

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God!***

### **Proclaiming the Story**

*Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Psalm 105:2*

Hymn- He Is Coming, the Man of Sorrows

Hymn- When He Comes Again in Splendor

### **We Present Our Petitions and Offerings**

*Shepherd of Israel, hear us. You lead the people of Joseph like a flock.*

Prayers of the People

Disciple's Model Prayer- Our Father...

*Bring an offering and come into his courts.*

Dedication Prayer

Chorus- “O God Among Us, Come”

### **We Hear God's Word Proclaimed**

Sermon text-1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2; and

1 Cor. 15:50-58

*“Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him..”*

Sermon-” Our Gathering to Him” by Wayne Conrad

Hymn – “One Day We Will Hear the Trumpet Sound”

### **We Share in Holy Communion**

*Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*

### **Preparation Prayer**

#### **Invitation**

All who love our Lord Jesus Christ and are waiting for his coming with a spirit of continual repentance and faith in Him, are warmly invited join us at this Table.

#### **Prayer of Approach**

#### **An Advent Affirmation of Faith**

#### **Great Thanksgiving Prayer**

#### **Mystery of Our Faith**

Father, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice because of Christ's sacrifice for us, and we proclaim the mystery and glory of our faith: ***Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.***

#### **Dedication Prayer**

Therefore, heavenly Father, hear us

as we celebrate this covenant with joy,

and await the coming of our brother, Jesus Christ.

He died in our place, making a full atonement, the perfect once and for all sufficient sacrifice for sin. You accepted his offering by raising him from death and by granting him great honor at your right hand on high.

Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here. We give you thanks

for this bread and cup and dedicate them to sacred use. Through these means may we partake spiritually of Christ's body and blood that we may eat and drink of him whom to know is life eternal.

#### **The Institution 1 Cor. 11:23-26**

On the same night that Jesus was betrayed he took bread and gave you

thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying,

*“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.*

*Do this in remembrance of me.”*

**Amen. His body was broken for us.**

#### **At the Breaking and Sharing of the Bread**

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.

**Therefore, let us keep the feast!**

M: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, keep your body and soul in eternal life.

Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving.