

THE CHIEF ELDERSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

November 13 Festival

All shall stand.

Lord, save your people, and bless your heritage;

Be our Shepherd, and bear us up forever.

Hymn 200

Pilgrimage (166 A)

Welcome among your flock of grace
with joyful acclamation,
our Shepherd whom we now confess!
Come, feed your congregation.
We own the doctrine of your cross
to be our sole foundation;
accept from ev'ry one of us
the deepest adoration.

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, 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.

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of his body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 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.

Lord Jesus Christ, you care for and guide the church universal, yet in mercy you were pleased to accept the office of Chief Elder of our Unity.

Help us always to remember that the life in our congregations is not the fruit of our own piety but of your love, which constrains us to love one another.

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep. I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak. I will feed them with justice.

Good Shepherd, we thank you that you have redeemed us as first fruits for God. Help us to follow wherever you lead.

Through the testimony of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit, God calls each individual personally into the fellowship of his flock.

God leads each member of the Body of Christ to the recognition of sin and to the acceptance of the redemption achieved by Christ.

We recognize the Word of the Cross as the center of Holy Scripture and of all preaching of the Gospel, and we know our primary mission is to bear witness to this joyful message. We ask our Lord for power never to stray from this.

Lord Jesus, you entered into this world's misery to bear it and to overcome it. Forgive us when we have failed to follow you in serving your people. Help us to know that like your love, this service knows no bounds. Ever anew point out to us the way to reach our neighbors, opening our heart and hand to them in their need.

Thus says the Lord, our Chief Elder: Do not fear, for I am with you. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Worship (159 A)

Dear Head and Savior, now we pray:
grant us your Spirit's power,
as in the past, so in our day
and ev'ry future hour:
with hope may our lives testify
that you all needful gifts supply
to serve the world and unify
your church for life on high.

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Please leave liturgy on the pew.