

The Lord's Service

Christ the King Church exists because of God's grace and for the sake of His glory. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we welcome you to join us in our highest privilege—worshiping the Triune God. In the Lord's Service, the Father renews covenant with His people in Christ and through the Holy Spirit. We receive God's gifts through Word and Sacrament, and respond in faithful prayer and sacrificial praise, through our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ.

Please use the prelude to prepare your heart for worship. Jesus taught us that if your brother has something against you, before any other act of worship, you ought to be reconciled to him. Please do not delay this, if necessary.

The congregation will stand after the prelude, and during portions of the service. Those who are able are encouraged to kneel during the confession of sin. We also invite you to give a hearty "Amen!" after each prayer and song and to raise your hands to our Father in heaven during the Lord's Prayer.

We delight having our covenant children worship with us. They are part of God's royal priesthood, just as much as their parents! Jesus singled them out as models for entering the kingdom because of their humble faith, saying "Of such is the kingdom of God!"

We have included some instructional helps [in italics] in the liturgy. If you'd like to learn more about why we worship the way we do, we would be glad to talk. If this is one of your first visits to Christ the King, we are grateful that you joined us today and would like to get to know you better.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome to all who are spiritually weak and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need the Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; to all who are poor in spirit and desire the riches of the gospel; and to whomsoever will come to Jesus Christ in living faith and repentance, looking to him as Lord and Liberator.

In Christ, The Session

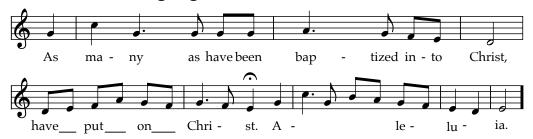
Michael Hansen John Crawford Steve Roderer

Advent Season

Advent is a season of preparation and longing—of waiting, watching, and hoping for the coming of Christ. Traditionally, many churches have used purple during Advent. Purple carries a dual meaning: it is the color of royalty, marking the coming of our King, and also a color of penitence, calling God's people to sober self-examination as they await His appearing. Purple aligns Advent with the themes of humility, repentance, and holy anticipation—echoing John the Baptist's call to "prepare the way of the Lord," even as we look for Christ's return in glory. We await the One who came in the fullness of time, took on our flesh, and will come again to make all things new.

The Lord Calls Us

Prelude & Ringing of the Bell



Baptism Julia Marie Woodcook

Dearly beloved, forasmuch as all men are conceived and born in sin, and that our Savior Christ said, none can enter into the kingdom of God, except he be regenerate and born anew of water and of the Holy Spirit: I beseech you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his bounteous mercy he will grant to this Child, that thing which by nature she cannot have; that she may be baptized with water and the Holy Spirit, and be received into Christ's holy Church and made a living member of the same.

Let us pray.

Almighty and Everlasting God, who of your great mercy did save Noah and his family in the ark from perishing by water; and also safely lead the children of Israel your people through the Red Sea, figuring thereby your holy Baptism; and by the Baptism of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, in the river Jordan, did sanctify water to the spiritual washing away of sin. We beseech You, for your infinite mercies, that You would mercifully look upon this Child; that she, coming to your holy Baptism, may receive remission of her sins by spiritual regeneration; that she, being delivered from your wrath, may be received into the ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may enjoy the everlasting benediction of your heavenly washing and so pass the waves of this troublesome world, and come to your eternal kingdom which You have promised, there to reign with You, world without end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Baptismal Vows

[to the parents]

Do you bring this child for baptism in faith, trusting in God's covenant promises to be your child's God and Savior from sin, persuaded that God desires to receive your child into his family and flock, and speaking on her behalf as her representative and sponsor?

We do.

Do you bring this child for baptism in faith, trusting God to unite her to Christ in his death and resurrection; to clothe her with Christ; to make her a member of the body of Christ; and to make this baptism her entrance into the new creation in Christ Jesus?

We do.

Do you promise in faith and in reliance upon the grace of God to disciple this child by teaching her all of Christ's commandments; directing her to fear and obey God and to love the Lord her God with all her heart, soul, mind, and strength; and to bring her up in the training and admonition of the Lord, that she might walk worthy of the calling she has received in the gospel all throughout her life?

We do.

In the name of your child, and on her behalf: Do you renounce the devil and all his works: the vain pomp and false glory of the world, with all its covetous desires; and the sinful inclinations of the flesh so that you will not follow, nor be led by them?

We do.

In the name of your child, and on her behalf: Do you believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; in the Lord Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered and was crucified for us; who then rose again from the dead on the third day and now reigns at the right hand of his Father; and who will return in glory to judge the living and the dead; and do you believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy catholic and apostolic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting?

We do.

[to the congregation, stand]

Members of Christ the King Church, please stand.

Do you, the assembly of Christ the King Church, promise to undertake the responsibility of assisting Brandon and Kendra as they nurture Julia in Christian faith and practice to the glory of God?

We do.

[please sit]

Sacrament of Baptism

I baptize you, Julia Marie Woodcook, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank You that by water and the Holy Spirit You have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, received her as your own child by adoption, made her a member of your holy Church, and raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit, that she may enjoy everlasting salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

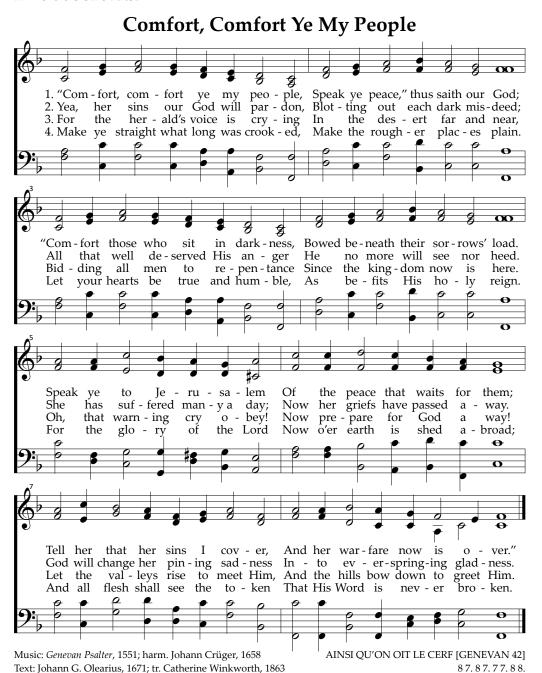
Julia Marie Woodcook, we receive you into the fellowship of the Church. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in the royal priesthood of all his people. Christ the King Church, I introduce to you the newest member of our covenant family.

Amen!

Greeting

Arise and let us worship God! [stand]

Processional



Call to Worship

We are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! May the Lord our God favor you!

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

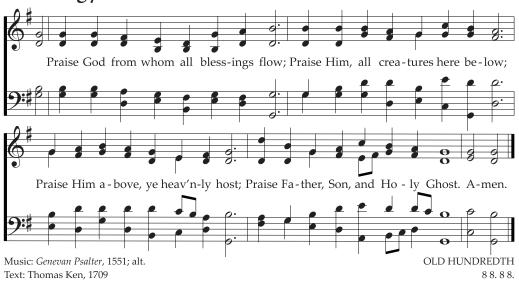
I rejoiced when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord!

Our feet are standing within Your gates, O Jerusalem!

Our help is in the name of the Lord!

Maker of heaven and earth!

Doxology







Come, let us sing for | joy to | Yahweh;

Let us shout to the | Rock of | our sal- | vation;

Let us come before His face | with thanks- | giving;

With songs | let us | shout to | Him.

For a great | Mighty One + is | Yahweh,

And a great | King a- | bove all | gods.

In His hand are the | depths of • the | earth,

And the peaks | of the | mountains are | His.

His is the sea, | for He | made it,

And the | dry land | His hands | formed.

Come, let us worship and | **Bow** | down;

Let us kneel be- | fore Yah- | weh our | Maker.

For it is He | who is + our | God,

And we are the | peo-ple | of His | pasture,

And the | **SHEEP** | of His | hand.

Today His voice you will hear: Do not harden your hearts as at | Stri-ving | Waters,

As in the day of | Testing Place | in the | wilderness,

When your fathers | test-ed | Me;

They tried Me, though | they had | seen My | work.

For forty years I abhorred that generation, and said:

A people who wander in their | heart are | these,

And they do not ac- | knowl-edge | My | ways.

Therefore, I swore | in Mine | anger:

Never shall they | en-ter | into My | rest.

Glory | to the | Father,

And to the | Son + and to the | Ho-ly | Spirit,

As it was | in the + be- | ginning,

Is now and ever shall be, | age after | age. A- | men.

[please sit]

The Lord Cleanses Us

THE SIN OFFERING

Covenant family of God, our Creator and Redeemer teaches us that he who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will find mercy. Let us call upon our merciful Father to hear our confession, that He might grant us forgiveness in Christ and strength to repent through the Holy Spirit.





The Lord calls upon us to make confession of our sin in the sure confidence that He is faithful and just to forgive us and restore us to the joy of our salvation.

Let us humbly kneel and confess our sins together.

Confession of Sin [please kneel]

Most merciful God.

We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, By what we have done,
And by what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with our whole heart;
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For these sins and for our sinfulness,
We are truly contrite and we humbly repent.
For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ,
Have mercy on us and forgive us;
That we may delight in Your will,
And walk in Your ways,
To the glory of Your Name.

Arise and hear the good news of God's forgiveness!

Declaration of Absolution [stand]

Brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ: Know surely, your sins are fully and freely forgiven! Believe the gospel and rejoice in the hope of eternal life.

Amen!

Amen.

The Lord Consecrates Us

THE ASCENSION OFFERING

Hymn of Ascent



Music: German traditional melody, c. 1400s; arr. Michael Praetorius, *Musae Sionae*, 1609 Text: German hymn, c. 1400s; st. 1–2, tr. Theodore Baker, 1894; ES IS st. 3–4, tr. Harriet R. Spaeth, 1875; st. 5, tr. John Caspar Mattes, 1914

ES IST EIN ROS ENTSPRUNGEN 7 6. 7 6. 6 7 6. Lift up your hearts!

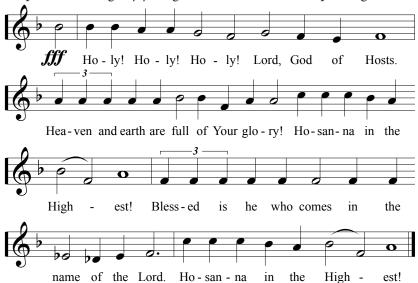
We lift them up to the Lord!

O Lord, open our lips!

And our mouth will declare Your praise!

Sanctus

It is very good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Collect

Almighty Lord our God,

Direct our steps these Advent days into the way of peace, and strengthen our hearts to obey your commandments.

O Dayspring, Splendor of the eternal Light and Sun of Righteousness,

Come and give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

that they may adore You for your mercy,

follow You for your truth,

and desire You for your sweetness,

for You are the blessed King of the nations, now and forever.

Amen.

Source: An ancient Collect, A. D. 440

[please sit]

Scripture Lessons

The Word of God is living and powerful,

Sharper than any two-edged sword!

Piercing to the division of soul and spirit,

And discerning the thoughts and intents of the heart!

First Lesson Judges 4

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!



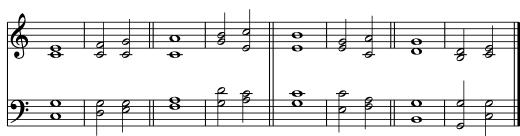
Second Lesson I Corinthians 2

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Gradual [stand]

Psalm 150



Praise Yah! Praise the | Mighty One in His + holy place!
Praise Him in His | strong + firmament!
Praise Him for His | mighty + acts!
Praise Him for His im- | mense + greatness!

Praise Him with | blast of + ram's horn!
Praise Him with | harp and + lyre!
Praise Him with | tambourine and + dance!
Praise Him with | strings and + flute!

Praise Him with | sounding + cymbals!

Praise Him with | clashing + cymbals!

Let everything that | breathes praise + Yah!

Pra- | ise + Yah!

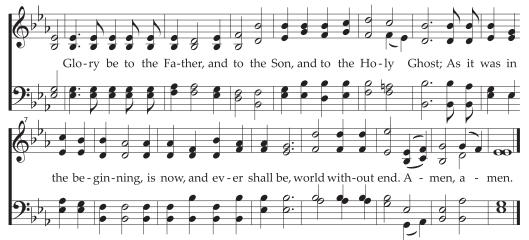
Glory to the | Father, and to the + Son, And to the | Holy + Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is | now, and ever + shall be, Age after | age. Am - en.

Gospel Lesson Luke 1:57-80

This is the Gospel of Christ!

Praise be to Christ!

Gloria Patri



Music: Henry W. Greatorex (1813–1858) Text: Traditional, c. 100s

[please sit]

Lesson of the Day ISAIAH 35

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

The Sermon Be Strong; Fear Not!

Prayer of Consecration

The Lord Collects Our Gifts

THE TRIBUTE OFFERING

Giving of God's Tithes and our Offerings

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



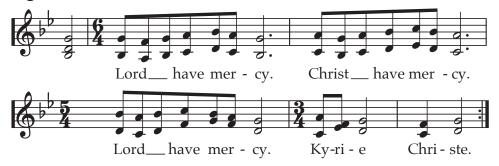
Offertory Prayer

Father, receive now these gifts offered to You in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, as we return to You a portion of that which You have freely given us. Use these tithes and offerings to support the work of the Church, to care for the poor and needy, to promote the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth, and to build up Your kingdom.

In the Name of Christ,

Amen!

Song of Intercession Kyrie



Prayer for the Church and World

As God's royal priesthood, let us stand for prayer. [stand]

Stir up Your power, O Lord, to rescue us from the dangers of this dark world by the advent of Your Son, that we may ever walk in His light and learn the way of peace.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, though we do not know the day or hour of Your Son's appearing, grant that we would always be prepared by sending us faithful pastors and teachers who will boldly proclaim the whole counsel of Your Word to us, that we may be constantly encouraged and built up in the faith.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O God of Jacob, You have established Your kingdom as a beacon to call all nations unto Yourself. Teach us to walk in the light of Your peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O Lord of love, visit our homes and defend us from the temptation to walk in the works of darkness. Strengthen husbands to love their wives, and wives to submit to their husbands, and parents to raise their children diligently in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

King of kings, You are the authority to whom all earthly authorities must bow. Give wisdom and godly insight to our governor Henry McMaster; our Sheriff Hobart Lewis; so they legislate, enforce, and judge by your Holy Law. Grant peace among the nations, that swords may be beaten to plowshares and spears to pruning hooks.

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Compassionate Lord, look with mercy upon the sick. Visit them during these Advent days, heal their diseases, comfort them with your lovingkindness and tender mercies, so that their youth is renewed like the eagle's. Bring them once again to your house to praise You in the midst of the throng. Deliver those in distress and need, especially _____:

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

O righteous Father, You alone know the day and the hour when our Lord, Jesus Christ, will come again in glory. Keep us steadfast in the one, true faith, that we may ever be ready for His reappearing; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, unto ages of ages.

Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

And now hear us as we join our hearts, voices, and hands in the prayer Your Son, our Savior, taught us:

[join hands]



17

Confession of Faith Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith together.

Christian, in whom do you believe?

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible.

Tring of all tillings visible and invisible

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

Begotten of the Father before all worlds;

God of God,

Light of Light,

very God of very God;

Begotten, not made,

Being of one substance with the Father,

By whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation,

Came down from heaven,

And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,

And was made man;

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered and was buried;

And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;

And ascended into heaven,

And sits on the right hand of the Father;

And He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead;

Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The Lord and Giver of Life;

Who proceeds from the Father and the Son;

Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;

Who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;

And I look for the resurrection of the dead,

And the life of the world to come.

Amen.

The Lord Communes with us

THE PEACE OFFERING

Preface

Let us proclaim the faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again!

Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast!

We do not presume to come to this, your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but resting in your great mercy.

Heavenly Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves to You as a living sacrifice. As we break the bread together and share the cup, make us to be the one body of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to the Lord.

The Lord's Supper [sit and feast together]

This supper belongs to all Christians, not just Christ the King Church, and so we invite all members of God's family to partake with us, as the one body of Christ. If you are a baptized Christian, and not under church discipline—come and feast, celebrating Christ's victory over sin, death, and Satan.

The Bread

Prayer, Breaking of Bread, Distribution, Eating

Hymn [page 20]

The Wine

Our Lord Jesus Christ through his blood gives us peace with God. Having ascended to the throne, we are seated as kings at the Lord's royal table. Remain seated as we partake of the cup. After receiving, fellowship with those sitting nearby, and greet one another with "the peace of Christ."

Prayer, Distribution, Drinking & Passing the Peace

Hymn [page 21]





* This Latin phrase means Glory to God in the highest!

Music: French carol, 1700s; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937 Text: French carol GLORIA 77.77. w/ refrain

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us stand and pray. [stand]

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for making us partakers of the body and blood of Your Son, through the work of the Holy Spirit.

We praise You for serving us this heavenly food, which assures us that we belong, body and soul, in life and in death, to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

Send us out in His strength to be salt and light wherever You lead us. Draw many people to love and follow You, as they see Your truth, beauty, and goodness in us. Amen.

The Lord Commissions Us





Benediction

Look up and receive the Lord's blessing.



Contact & Announcements

We are a church of the CREC, a communion of churches in the Evangelical and Reformed tradition. We are grateful that you joined us today and would like to get to know you. If we can assist or pray for you in any way, or if you desire to join the church, contact Pastor Michael Hansen at mhansen@christkingchurch.com or 864-202-6920, Elder John Crawford at jcrawford@christkingchurch.com, or Elder Steve Roderer at sroderer@christkingchurch.com.

- Lessons & Carols, 5:30 Dinner, 6:30 Service, Wednesday, December 17
- Christmas Eve Service 4pm, Wednesday, December 24
- Christmas Day Service 10:30am, Thursday December 25
- Christmastide Carols & Cocktails, South Wind Ranch, 5–9pm Friday, January 2
- Epiphany Vespers 6:30pm Tuesday, January 6
- Matins & LifeSing 8am, 2nd Thursdays, next January 8

To view our full upcoming schedule, please visit ChristKingChurch.com.