

2610 Campbell Street Valparaiso, Indiana 46385 (219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



Christ the King Sunday November 23, 2025

We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

* The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."

ABOUT WORSHP

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE Prelude in D Minor Pachelbel

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider filling out a Connection Card online (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.



Prayer requests can be posted to the live chat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.

If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT FOR ADVENT (Advent Wreath is lit)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer. God of unbroken weakness, you laugh at our love of power: may we find kingship in the love that is killed for speaking its name without even the shadow of force; through Jesus Christ, King of Fools. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR LOUISA ROWBERG ODEGARD

(10:30 a.m. only—8:00 a.m. continues on page 8)

The candidate for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate:

We present Louisa Rowberg for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Louisa baptized into Christ?

We do.

The presiding minister continues:

As you bring Louisa to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that she may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Louisa grow in the Christian faith and life? **We do.**

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to continue to accompany Louisa in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

We do.

The assembly stands.

People of God, do you promise to support Louisa and pray for her in her new life in Christ? Will you grow with her, learn with her, serve with her, and together give praise to God?

We will.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

BAPTISM

The assembly is seated. The presiding minister baptizes the candidate. Louisa Rowberg, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays: Sustain Louisa with the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of wisdom and understanding the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,

the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. Louisa, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

^{*}Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized.

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

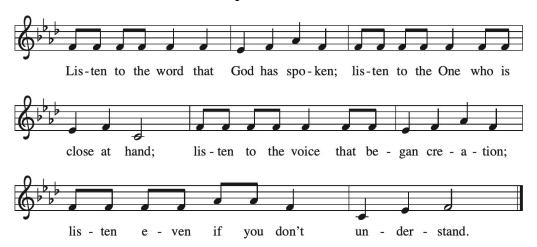
WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited for a time together.

Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken



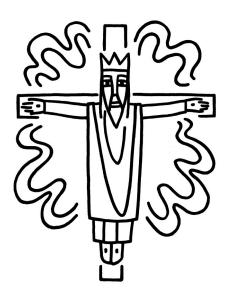
READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

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 not fear any longer, 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."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



PSALM 46

The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.

Refrain



Psalm Tone



PSALM 46

God is our ref- uge and strength,

a very present | help in trouble.

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

³though its waters rage and foam,

and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

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

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;

God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;

God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,

what desolations God has brought up-\|on the earth;

⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;

who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,

and burns the | shields with fire.

¹⁰"Be still, then, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth."

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold. R

READING: Colossians 1:11-20

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.



GOSPEL: Luke 23:32-43

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 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."

³⁹One 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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #838 Beautiful Savior

(St. 3- sung a cappella)

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



APOSTLES' CREED (8:00 a.m. only)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations. Further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin. Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Grant the people of East Timor, Indonesia, and the Pillipines peace, justice, and good governance; bless the ministries of churches and efforts at interfaith cooperation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

^{*}Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick. Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We pray for our Little Lamb Preschool community, for Laura and Mallory who teach the Happy Hoppers Beginner's class, and for these students and their families: Cole, Cord, Dean, Easton, Ellie, Everett, Hazel, Mable, Mateo, Rhys, Ryan and Santana. Bless the students in their growth and learning, that they might know your love more and more each day; strengthen and equip their families in their calling to nurture your beloved children. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for all who have died in faith, especially Clement, Miguel Agustín Pro, Justus Falckner, Jehu Jones, William Passavant, and Isaac Watts. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We invite those worshiping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the live chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!**



MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with Daybreak Shelter (including Men's Resale Shop) daybreakshelter.org and Gabriel's Horn (in conjunction with Family Promise of P.C.) www.gabrielshelter.org

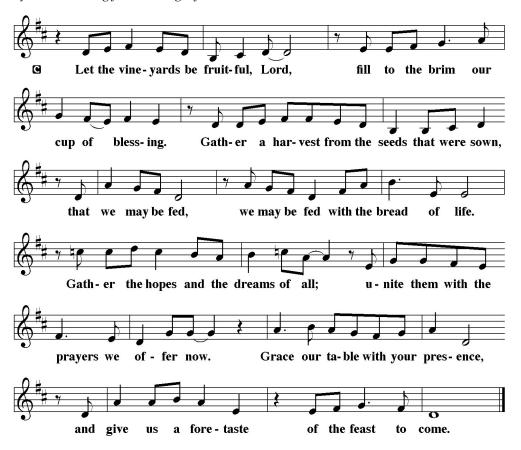
If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code, browse to our secure on-line portal at <u>clcvalpo.org/give</u> or use <u>our CLC app</u> (download at clcvalpo.org/app).

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 am): Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending Williams

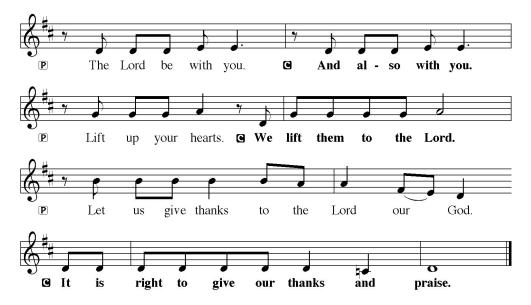
Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain; thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train: Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign. Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty; those who set at naught and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see. Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears, cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshippers: with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars. Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne; Saviour, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own: Alleluia! Thou shalt reign and thou alone. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.



GREAT THANKSGIVING



The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")

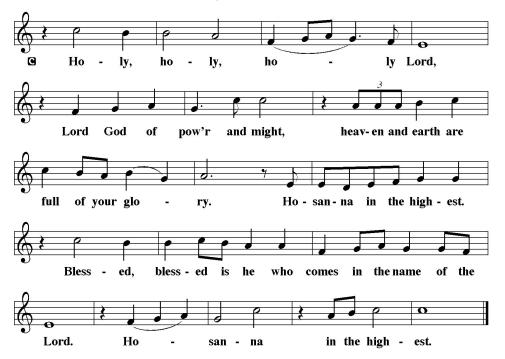


TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised. Thanks be to God!

now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

The assembly is seated. The pastor invites those worshipping via livestream to commune:

The body of Christ, given for you.

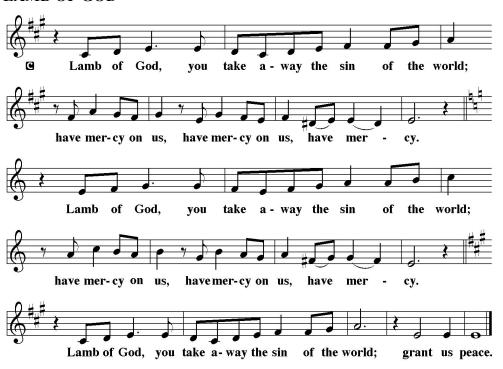
Amen (receive the bread)

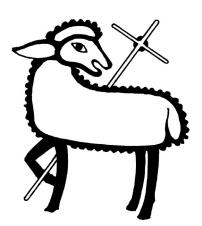
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is lighter-colored and **GRAPE JUICE** is dark; wine is received either by Common Cup or from individual cups in the trays. **USED GLASSES** are placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this.

LAMB OF GOD





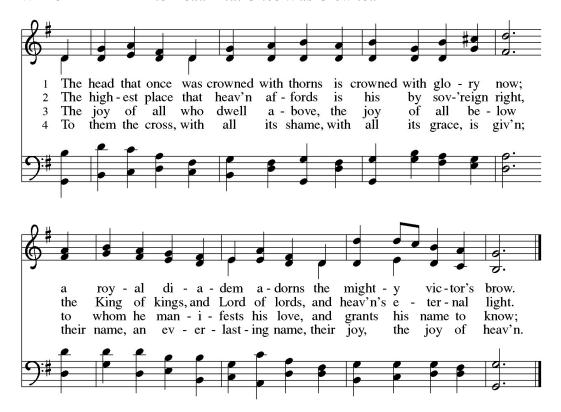
COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW #854 Blessing and Honor



ELW #432

The Head That Once Was Crowned



- 5 They suffer with their Lord below; they reign with him above; their profit and their joy to know the myst'ry of his love.
- 6 The cross he bore is life and health, though shame and death to him; his people's hope, his people's wealth, their everlasting theme!

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE ELW #200 Now, Lord



SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**



SENDING HYMN ELW #855 Crown Him with Many Crowns



Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Children: Go in peace. Keep awake.

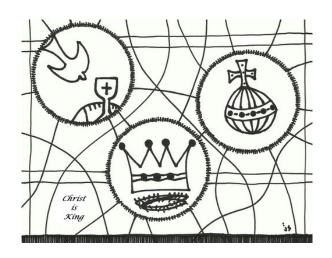
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

J.S. Bach

As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.



Worship Leaders

8:00 a.m. <u>10:30 a.m.</u>

Acolyte Shawn Longacre Noah DeJesus

Lector Kristin Longacre Doug Schmidt

Prayer Assistant Linda Mapes Sara Long

Communion Assistants Barbara Clements Sara Long

Darla Hernandez

Ushers Luke Venstrom Lucas Eckland-Baker

Irene Adams Jackson Ecklund-Baker

Sound/Light Sam Venstrom Tony Reinhold

Video/Livestream ————

Pastors Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr

Rev. Erica Gibson-Even

Director of Music Ministries Brian Bartush

Cantor Lena Gibson-Even

Worship Participants Sanctuary Choir

Communion Baker Lois Felten



Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, Philippines.

We are thankful for:

- the vital witness of churches in this region
- the diversity of ethnicities, cultures and religious beliefs, and especially those in Indonesia who have built bridges between them
- those who have resisted bravely and worked for human rights, justice, peace and reconciliation, especially the National Council of Churches in the Philippines
- those who protest exploitative mining, deforestation and other environmental damage.

We **pray** for:

- governments in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Timor Leste, that they will eradicate corruption, establish justice and peace, and work effectively for the wellbeing of all their people
- victims of violence, torture, drug and human trafficking, and human rights violations, that those responsible might be held accountable
- all those affected by earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters, and for the rebuilding of communities afterwards
- ecumenical and interfaith cooperation to bring justice, peace and sustainability to these lands.

COMMEMORATIONS Week of November 23, 2025

November 23-Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100

Clement was the third bishop of Rome. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul's letters to them. As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.

November 23-Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, died 1927

Pro grew up in a time when the Mexican revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the wealthy. He became a Jesuit priest, and worked on behalf of the poor and homeless. Falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a government official, he was executed, but not before crying out "Long live Christ the King!"

November 24-Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America

Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.

November 25-Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748

Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

The Servant King

Many congregations will sing a hymn this Sunday that declares, "Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save" (ELW 855). This is an image of a conquering hero who fought Satan and won. Hail to the king! But that is not the king we are presented with in today's gospel reading. Jesus is a broken, rejected man hanging naked in public shame, dying for a capital offense, sandwiched between two criminals.

Many people struggle to think of Jesus as king because of the negative actions of historical kings. Kings have too often been men wielding power for their own gain, sitting on thrones upheld by patriarchy and wealth. Furthering this negative image are colonialism and the kings who issued decrees to ravage and control people in their native land. Neither is this the image of Christ the king in today's reading.

At Gonzaga University (Spokane, Washington), a focus on servant leadership is offered as a concentration in the master's program in organizational leadership. Its focuses are forgiveness and restorative justice, listening and discerning, community-building, foresight and strategy, and transformational thinking. Doesn't that sound a lot more like the leadership of Jesus?

Perhaps we are reminded of the hard parts of Jesus' journey to draw our attention to his purpose and the focus of his teachings. He wasn't a conqueror, and he didn't wield power for his own gain. He hung naked on the cross to be the ultimate servant leader. We claim Jesus as our king because of his servant leadership—his focus on forgiveness and restoration, building community, and thinking in transformational ways. Hail the servant king!

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