

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

901 EAST STROOP ROAD

KETTERING, OH 45429-4688

(937) 298-0136

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Introduction

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

The Coming Kingdom

Jesus' vision of glory is really a humble one. His kingly activity is not concerned with parading around royally, or associating with the powerful or wealthy, or affiliating himself with military might and authority. The pronouncements made from his throne are not ones issued for the sake of protecting his own power. Instead, he is concerned with one question in particular: How do the vulnerable fare?

As we celebrate Christ the King at the end of another church year, we are challenged to see an expression of political power that is far different from that which makes our governments tick. Jesus welcomes his followers into an alternative way of life, one that puts love of neighbor at the center of our daily actions.

To get a sense of how the vulnerable have fared on our watch, we could look at our national and local budgets, government policies, advocacy efforts, social interactions, even our charitable contributions. At the heart of Jesus' teaching is an invitation to see one's neighbor with renewed vision. There is an expectation when honoring Jesus' sovereignty that our attention turn outward, away from ourselves. Similarly, the celebration of the Lord's supper redirects our attention toward Christ and our neighbor.

When we receive the meal, we are not coming forward for a private snack. Instead, we come as people who are shaped by this gift of God. In this gift Christ himself reminds us of the common need we have, and as we partake in the meal, we are invited to see it as a central expression of Christ's reign. In so doing, our idea of neighbor expands and we rehearse an economy that God desires, one in which vulnerable people matter. We share this meal with God's family throughout history and around the world. And this is how the kingdom comes.

PRELUDE

**** Indicates to stand as you are able.**

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pr. Jamie Vannoy

CALL TO WORSHIP

He Is Exalted (W&P 55)

Musical staff with notes and chords: F, F/A, Bb, Bb/D, C/E

He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high; I will praise him.

Musical staff with notes and chords: F, F/A, Bb, C/Bb, Bb/C, C

He is ex-alt-ed, for - ev-er ex-alt-ed, and I will praise his

Musical staff with notes and chords: Dsus, D/C, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, Am

name. Je - sus is Lord, for - ev - er his truth shall

Musical staff with notes and chords: Bb, F/A, Gm, Dm/F, C/E, C, F, Am

reign; hea - ven and earth re - joice in his ho - ly

Musical staff with notes and chords: Bb, F/A, Gm, Bb/F, EbM7, Bb/C, F, Bb/F, F

name. He is ex-alt-ed, the King is ex-alt-ed on high.

OPENING LITANY

Thanks and praise to you,
Lord Christ, King of heaven and Ruler of all,
given the name above every other name.

**Jesus Christ, our Savior and King,
we worship and adore you.**

Son of righteousness, Prince of peace,
you are enthroned at the right hand
the Father.

**Jesus Christ, our Savior and King,
we worship and adore you.**

Great High Priest, Saving Victim,
you gave your life to redeem sinners.
You write your law of love deep within our hearts.

**Jesus Christ, our Savior and King,
we worship and adore you.**

Author of salvation, Light of the world,
you defeated the grave,
and you continue to make all things new.

**Jesus Christ, our Savior and King,
we worship and adore you.**

Every knee bows to you,
every tongue confesses
you are King of kings
and Lord of lords,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

(Verse 1 - Praise Team)
Everyone needs compassion,
Love that's never failing;
Let mercy fall on me.
Everyone needs forgiveness,
The kindness of a Saviour,
The hope of nations.

(Refrain - All)
Saviour, he can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save,
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.

(Verse 2 - All)
So take me as you find me,
All my fears and failures.
Fill my life again.
I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in.
Now I surrender.

(Refrain - All)
Saviour, he can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save,
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.

(Bridge - Praise Team)
Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King:
Jesus.
Shine your light and let the whole world see.
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King.

(Refrain - All)

**Saviour, he can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save,
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.**

**Saviour, he can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save,
He is mighty to save.
Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave,
Jesus conquered the grave.**

(All)

**Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King:
Jesus.
Shine your light and let the whole world see.
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King.**

Shout to the Lord

My Jesus, my Savior,
Lord, there is none like you.
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength-
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands.
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

CONFESSION

Heavenly Father, you have crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

We confess that we have not bowed before him, and are slow to acknowledge his rule. We give allegiance to the powers of this world, and fail to be governed by justice and love. In your mercy, forgive us. Raise us to acclaim as ruler of all, that we may be loyal ambassadors, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

FORGIVENESS

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of power and might, **your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 95:1-7a

We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)

Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

For the LORD is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**** GOSPEL READING****Matthew 25:31-46**

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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

YOUTH MESSAGE**MESSAGE**

Pr. Jamie Vannoy

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
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 OF THE COMMUNITY

GATHERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

**** LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

HOLY COMMUNION - *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person may respond: **Amen.**

Communion Statement ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.*

NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

*As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work **in** us and **through** us in the coming days.*

**** TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**** BLESSING**

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

This Is Amazing Grace

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,
Who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

(Refrain - All)

**This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,
That you would take my place,
That you would bear my cross,
You laid down your life
That I would be set free.
O Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me,
All that you've done for me.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**Who brings our chaos back into order,
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.**

(Verse 4 - All)

**Who rules the nations with truth and justice,
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.**

(Refrain - All)

**This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,
That you would take my place,
That you would bear my cross,
You laid down your life
That I would be set free.
O Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.**

(Music Ministers)

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain:
Worthy, worthy, worthy! Oh!

(Refrain - All)

**This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love,
That you would take my place,
That you would bear my cross,
You laid down your life
That I would be set free.
O Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me,
O Jesus, I sing for all that you've done for me.**

**** DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
**Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.
Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22920.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.