Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 2026

Pre-service Music

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: Give Thanks *St. John's Bell Choir*

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✣ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P Blessed are the ones who trust in the Lord. For the Lord God withholds no good thing from those who trust in Him. Therefore, let us go to our God and confess our sins knowing that,
C **our God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

C **Gracious and merciful God, we confess that while we have been made new creations through the waters of our baptism, we still live ensnared by sin, and are unable to free ourselves. We have not always lived our lives in accordance with the identity that you have given us in Jesus. We have not always done the things that you have called us to do. We have not always loved you above all else and with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us all our sins. Renew our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that our lives would show the identity you have given us in baptism, and the new creations that you have made us to be. Amen.**

P The Lord hears our prayers. Our God gives ear to us and answers us. In mercy, Almighty God has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit
C **Amen.**

Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Service of the Word

Gathering Hymn *LSB 336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall their true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
Text: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

L The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

L Let us pray.
Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Children's Message

The Old Testament Reading *Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 (NRSVue)*

A The Old Testament reading is from the thirty-fourth chapter of the book of Ezekiel.

11 For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort
out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort 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. 13 I will bring them out
from the peoples and gather them from the countries and 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. 14 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. 15 I myself will be the shepherd
of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back
the strays, 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.
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.
21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you
scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge
between sheep and sheep. 23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed
them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David
shall be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm *Psalm 95:1–7a (NRSV)*

L O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
C **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**
L For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
C **In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**
L The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
C **O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**
L For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
C **and the sheep of his hand.**
L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Epistle Reading *1 Corinthians 15:20–28 (NRSVue)*

A The Epistle reading is from the fifteenth chapter of the book of 1 Corinthians.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. 21 For since death
came through a human, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human, 22 for as all die in
Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 23 But each in its own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming
those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father,
after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his
enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For “God has put all things in
subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is plain that this does not
include the one who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are subjected to him, then the
Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be
all in all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

L These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
C **They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**
L Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
C **in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

Gospel Acclamation

C **Halle, halle, halle_lujah!**
Halle, halle, halle_lujah!
Halle, halle, halle_lujah!
Hallelujah! Halle_lujah!

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Verse Christ the King

P Alleluia. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,
C **The beginning and the end. Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:31–46 (NRSVue)*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

31 "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. 32 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, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at
the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit
the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 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, 36 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.' 37 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? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and
gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will
answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you
did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the
eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty
and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 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.' 44 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?'
45 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.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *LSB 532 The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns*

1 The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.

2 The highest place that heav'n affords
Is His, is His by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And heav'n's eternal Light;

3 The Joy of all who dwell above,
The Joy of all below
To whom He manifests His love
And grants His name to know.

4 To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is giv'n;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heav'n.

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.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855Text: Public domain

Apostles' Creed

L We make confession of our faith together in the words of the creed.

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Blessing of Those Celebrating Birthdays

All who are celebrating a birthday this month are invited to come forward for a prayer and a blessing.

P Loving and gracious Heavenly Father, you have given us our bodies, souls, and all that we have. We thank you for the great gift of life that you have given to us, and especially to these your dearly loved people. We thank you for them and for being able to share life with them. As they celebrate another year of life, we ask your blessing and favor to be upon them. Increase their joy in life lived with you. Grow their trust in your presence and promises. And give them zeal for joining you in your mission in this world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

L Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P Loving and Gracious God, you have gathered us together to be your people in this world. You give us your Holy Spirit, your word, and the sacraments. Work through Your means of grace to transform our lives, so that they would always show your love and forgiveness and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Lord God, You gather Your people from all nations and bring them into Your one, holy Christian and apostolic flock. Strengthen us by Your grace, that we may gladly feast upon Your riches in Your Means of Grace and declare Your praises to all who will hear. Give us joy and zeal for living as your disciples who join you in your work in this world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, You judge between Your sheep, and You shepherd Your people with Your Holy Word. Encourage the people of Your church. Through their faithful service, continue to seek the lost, bring back the strayed, bind up the injured and strengthen the weak. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Heavenly Father, You have subjected all things under Your Son, who gladly subjects Himself to You. Bless the homes of Your people, that they may be places marked by your wisdom and love, and that your people may gladly love and honor one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord of lords, You sustain every rule, authority and power as You see fit, until this world's powers should pass away. Bless all in civil authority, that they would maintain order and justice for the peace of all people. Bless and protect those who serve in our military, especially those severing in places of danger and far away from home. Bless all those who serve at home to protect and keep safe, all firefighters, police officers, first responders, EMTs, and emergency room workers. Allow justice, mercy, peace, and compassion to grow and increase in us, among us, and through us. And heal our world from the evils of injustice, prejudice, inequality, and hatred. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L Father in heaven, we look forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness, while now we contend with a multitude of afflictions under the curse of sin. We pray for those who are hurt and suffering, especially in places where war and violence reign. Remember those in need of help and healing *[including those we love who need your healing and care, that we name before you now, out loud or in our hearts _____].* Preserve them, and grant them healing in accordance with your good and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of grace, as death came by a man, so by Your Son has come the resurrection of the dead. Endow Your people with humble hearts at Your table, that we would receive in Your risen Son's body and blood in joy as a foretaste of the eternal feast to come. Work through your means of grace to strengthen our faith and to increase our love and service to you, to one another, and to our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L God of life, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. We give thanks to You for those You have gathered into Your kingdom and who are asleep in Him. Strengthen our conviction that death is defeated as we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and everything else for which we should ask, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Offering

C **Offer, offer, offering, we give our gifts to say,**
"Thank you Lord for loving us and blessing us each day."
Time to share our gifts and say,
"Thank you Lord for each new day."

Offertory Prayer

L O, Giver of all good things, we give thanks to You, for You are good and Your steadfast love endures forever. All that we have is a gift from You and signs of Your love and care. Grant that we would faithfully and joyfully use what You have entrusted to us to join You in the work that You are doing in this place. Accept the offerings that we give in the various ways that we give them throughout the week, as part of our work of joining You in Your work. Increase and grow our trust in You through the giving of our offerings. Be glorified in the giving of them as we give them in thanksgiving and with gratitude for all Your blessings and gifts to us. Use them to further the work that You are doing in this place and all around our world. In Jesus' name we pray,

C **Amen.**

Offertory

C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

The Lord's Prayer

P God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:
C **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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn *LSB 540 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate*

1 Christ, the Word of God incarnate,
Lord and Son of Abraham;
Christ, the radiance of the Father,
Perfect God, the great I AM;
Christ, the light, You shine unvanquished,
Light and life You bring to all;
Light our path with Your own presence,
Grant us grace to heed Your call.

2 Christ, the living bread from heaven,
Food for body, food for soul;
Christ, the manna daily given,
Nourish, strengthen, make us whole.
Feed us with the food of heaven,
Foretaste of the feast to be;
Quench our thirst with living water
Springing up eternally.

3 Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant
From the stump of Jesse's tree;
Christ, true vine, You nurture branches
To bear fruit abundantly.
Graft us into You, O Savior;
Prune our hearts so we remain
Fruitful branches in Your vineyard
Till eternal life we gain.

4 Christ, our good and faithful shepherd,
Watching all Your lambs and sheep;
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold,
Never-failing vigil keep.
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us,
Find us, lift us, bear us home;
Lamb of God, our shepherd, keep us;
Let us hear Your voice alone.

5 Christ, the way that leads unfailing
To the Father's home on high,
Christ, the truth that frees the captive,
Christ, the life that cannot die.
Mediator to the Father,
Sacrifice and great High Priest:
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions,
There to share Your wedding feast.

△ 6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega,
Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
Christ, the life and resurrection,
Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration
And unending worship be
To the Father and the Spirit
And to You eternally.

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Distribution Hymn *LSB 603 We Know That Christ Is Raised*

1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, He broke its fearful hold;
And our despair He turned to blazing joy.
Alleluia!

2 We share by water in His saving death.
Reborn, we share with Him an Easter life
As living members of a living Christ.
Alleluia!

3 The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the Church of God.
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.
Alleluia!

Text: John B. Geyer, 1932–2020, alt.
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The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

C **Amen.**

Thank the Lord

C **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.**
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect

L Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L As we depart from this place, we celebrate the ways God has blessed us in this service.
We have received forgiveness of all our sins and remembered the identity given to us in our baptism.

C **Our God has equipped us for life lived in His kingdom.**

L We have heard the good news of the gospel and the word of God read and proclaimed.

C **Our God has encouraged us in discipleship and following Jesus.**

L We have received the gifts of God given in Holy Communion.

C **As our God has served us, so we go from this place to be engaged in service to God, to one another and to our neighbors.**

L As we depart from this place, we go as people who have been equipped for life, encouraged in discipleship, and who engage in service.

C **We go as people who have been invited by God to join God in the work that He is doing in this place.**

P As you go, receive the blessing of our God:
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *LSB 387 Joy to the World*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
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