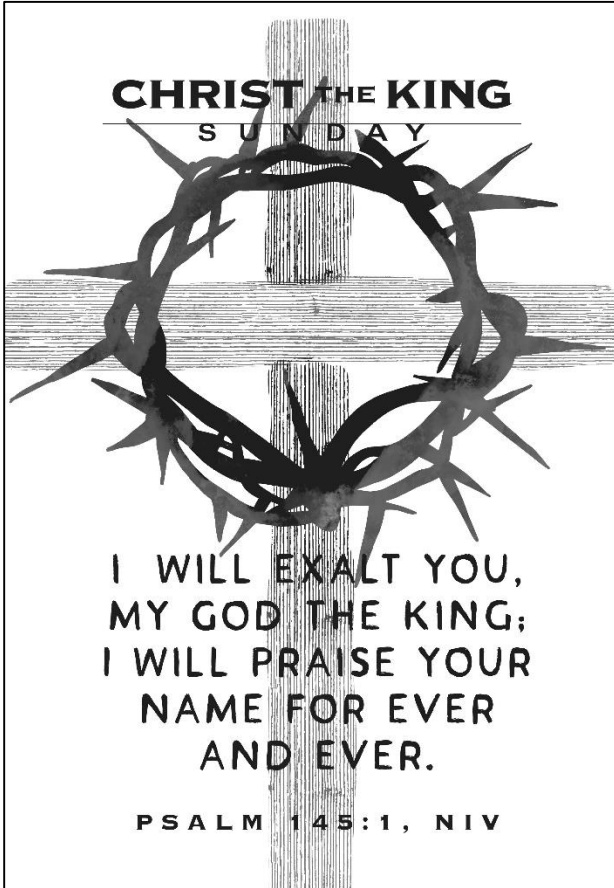


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Christ the King

November 24, 2024

23



CHRIST THE KING

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our refuge,
our delight,
our beginning and our end.

C: Amen.

P: Let us come in truth before the one who loves us
and has freed us from our sin.

Kneel

P: Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,

**C: we confess that sin has taken hold of us
and we are complicit in its power.**

We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest.

Unbind us and set us free.

**Lead us again to the waters of rebirth,
that we may live just and generous lives**

for the good of your world

and the care of our neighbors,

following in the servant way of Jesus.

Amen.

P: These words are trustworthy and true:
Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross,
swallowing up death forever.

For his sake, you are † forgiven
and God remembers your sin no more.

Let your heart be glad again,
and rejoice in your salvation.

C: Amen.

Stand

The Congregation turns to follow the processional cross.

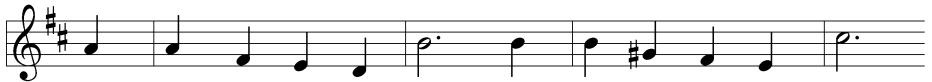
GATHERING HYMN *Crown Him with Many Crowns (St. 1-4)*



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn,
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903
 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey 1816–1893

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [I] Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
[C] This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [II] Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
[C] This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. [I] Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

A: A Reading from Daniel:

⁹ As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his throne,
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.

¹³ As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion
 that shall not pass away,
 and his kingship is one
 that shall never be destroyed.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 93

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.

Ev - er since the world be - gan, your

throne has been es - tab - lished.

Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.

- ¹ The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and | armed with strength.
 The LORD has made the world so sure that it can- | not be moved.
- ² **Ever since the world began, your throne has | been established; you are from | everlasting. R**
- ³ The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted | up their voice; the waters have lifted up their | pounding waves.
- ⁴ **Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers | of the sea, mightier is the LORD who | dwells on high.**
- ⁵ Your testimonies are | very sure, and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and for- | evermore. **R**

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

A: A Reading from Revelation:

^{4b} Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
⁵ and from Jesus Christ,
the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead,
and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
⁶ and made us to be a kingdom,
priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega,"
says the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come,
the Almighty.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Stand
The Gospel is carried into the midst of the people as a reminder that Christ is present among us. Please face the processional cross.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

CANTOR: Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the Lord.
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our an- | cestor David.

C: Repeat the Alleluias

GOSPEL: John 18:33-37

In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON..... Pastor Amme

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *Jesus Shall Reign*



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 thron to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - or to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793



NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Rooted in God’s abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

After each petition:

P: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P: We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.
Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you.*

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

*The Offering is received as the Lord’s table is prepared.
Music plays during the preparation of the meal.*

ANTHEM

O Give Thanks..... Joseph M. Martin

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -

nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

C: Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup,
 you offered yourself in love for the world,
 and in this meal you nourish us with your life.
 Fill us with your abundance,
 that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger,
 trusting in your name.
 Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 in great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
 who preached good news to the poor,
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

P: Behold, God is making all things new.
Take your place in the new creation.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit
COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table.

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen



COMMUNION HYMN *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!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Sciss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

Stand

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

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Faithful God,
 you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink
 in the body and blood of your Son.
 Now send us out to labor with you,
 in service to the world you have made,
 and among the people you have made your home,
 in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

SENDING**BLESSING**

P: The Ancient One, enthroned,
the Crucified One, now risen,
the Indwelling One, poured out,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

The congregation turns to face the processional cross.

SENDING HYMN Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

1 Re - joice, the Lord is king! Your Lord and king a - dore;
2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus reigns, the God of truth and love;
3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o'er earth and heav'n;
4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes sub - mit



re - joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more:
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove:
the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n:
and bow to his com - mand and fall be - neath his feet:

Refrain

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; re -



joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: LAUS REGIS, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, AnnMarie Hohman, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ; **Lay Assistant:** Kim Brofee; **Communion Assistant:** Debbie day; **Acolyte/Crucifer:** Jonathan Hess; **Torchbearers:** Jordan Morris, Brennen Hess; **Altar Guild:** Vicki Bair, Doris Butt
Greeters/Communion Presenters: Sue and Dennis Shoemaker
Cantor: Candy Watkins; **Flower Delivery:** Jody Fullmer

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor and in loving memory of loved ones by David and Emily Bausinger.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of George R. Weiskerger on the anniversary of his birthday, November 30, by his family.

The Basket of Flowers is given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of our son, Eric Bennett, by his parents, Cindy and Denny Bennett.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Messiah Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us. If you are visiting, please make yourself known and leave your name & information to a congregation member. *We hope to see you again.*

Kids in Mission is Saturday, December 7, 9:00-12:00. Registration forms are available at the Alley Entrance or they can be downloaded on our web site. Thank you. *Kathryn Pratt*

Soloists, instrumentalists or groups of people interested in playing an instrument or singing on Christmas Eve please contact Jared Gist at 570-398-1674. Thank you!

Official Notice is hereby given of the Annual Congregational Meeting on December 8, 2024. The meeting will be held immediately following the 9:30am Worship Service. Business will include the approval of a budget for 2024, the election of new council members and the selection of a Nominating Committee for next year's council.

Please pick-up your annual reports in the back of the Sanctuary along with your envelopes.

The Bible Study/ Fellowship is done for the fall session. We will return in January for our Winter Bible Study/Fellowship. *Happy Holiday's!*

NOW IS THE TIME...to put in your reservation for memorial Poinsettias. Multiple bloom plants are being purchased, the cost per plant being \$9.00. Of course, many of these flowers are taken to homebound members of our congregation. **PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BY MONDAY, December 9th.** Please call the church office with any questions. Thank you!

Please support the White Gifts/Christmas Basket Project. Please take an angel from one of the two trees in the narthex, purchase the gifts, and return them to Messiah by December 10th. We hand out the White Gifts with our Christmas Food Basket. You can help by contributing any of the following items and placing in the marked bin next to White Gifts bin: Green beans, applesauce, canned milk, canned pumpkin, turkey stuffing mix, pie crust mix, sugar (5 lb. bag), flour (5 lb. bag), macaroni and cheese, chocolate or vanilla pudding and Jell-O. **Monetary contributions are also needed.** Mark envelopes "Christmas Baskets" and place it in the offering plate or send to the church office. Make checks payable to "*Messiah Lutheran Church.*" **All donations should be received by December 10th. Thank you.**

December 15 is our Christmas Dinner, immediately following worship. Please sign-up by Sunday, December 8. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex or contact church office. Please give number of attendees.

We will decorate the church on Sunday, December 17th immediately following worship. **VOLUNTEERS**

ARE NEEDED! Please sign-up on the sheet in the

Decorating needs are: lights on the tree in the Chancel; lights and wreaths on the tree in the East Portico; wreaths, garland & other lights hung in the church. Poinsettias will also be put out at the same time.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. A. BRUCE AMME, PRESIDING AND PREACHING

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

Grace-Filled Reign

Popular images of monarchs through the centuries have often emphasized their material wealth, excess riches, crushing power, and military might. Their opulent headwear, jewelry, and beautiful clothing are enough to impress even the wealthiest members of society.

We call Christ a “king” on this festival day of the year, but Christ’s reign is expressed very differently than those of the human rulers around the globe. Compassion, inclusive love, and restoration of justice are markers of God’s kin-dom here on earth. Jesus worked to make things right between God and people, and among us human beings. Today our worship recognizes his unique reign as providing the type of powerful mercy we truly need in our king.

Jesus often used metaphors to illustrate what God’s love and faithfulness look like in our lives: as sheep trust the guidance of their shepherd, we, too, pay attention to the care Jesus provides for us. As Christ the Monarch draws near to us, loves us, cares for us, and accompanies us through all of life’s hard times, we bow before divine mercy and splendor.

Christ may not be a “king” or “queen” according to the usual imperial standards, and perhaps that is for the best. Yet in Jesus God brings that wide-reaching, world-covering love that transforms us. Christ washes us in grace, forgives us generously, and is as close to us as water on our foreheads and bread and wine on our lips. Even when it feels like this kin-dom of God is still too far away, God reminds us of its presence among us already at the baptismal font and around the communion table. These gifts have been here for generations and will continue to comfort us in our struggles: Water! Bread! Wine! Our king providing grace and love for us along life’s way, today and always.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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