GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



→ Holy Communion →
Christ the King
November 23, 2025

CHRIST THE KING

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

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel

P: Faithful God,

©: you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths.

We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises.

We ignore our neighbors.

We exploit the earth.

We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life.

Amen.

C: Amen.

Stand

The Congregation turns to follow the processional cross.



- 5 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose pow'r a scepter sways from pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and praise. His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.
- 6 Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time, creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
 All hail, Redeemer, hail!
 For thou hast died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

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





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through 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: 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.

A: A Reading from Jeremiah:

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 no longer fear 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."

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

The cantor sings the refrain; the congregation repeats it.



Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



- ¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength, a very present | help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
- 3 though its waters | rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-|y of God, the holy habitation of | the Most High.
- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken; God shall help it at the | break of day.
- ⁶ The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth | melts away. R
- ⁷ The LORD of | hosts is with us; the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- 8 Come now, regard the works | of the LORD, what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
- ⁹ behold 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."
- 11 The LORD of | hosts is with us; the God of Jacob | is our stronghold. R



SECOND 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.

A: A Reading from Colossians:

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, 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.

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



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: Luke 23:33-43

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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

³⁹ One 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us Christ, what can mean for us claim vou You im - age of heal came. the our God. to and to for great - ness felt Though some would make their and lord it chose hum - ble hu - man form and shunned the world's re -



Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Music: ALL SAINTS NEW, Henry S. Cutler, 1824–1902

Text © 2001, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638, www.giamusic.com, 800.442.3358.

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: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

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

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

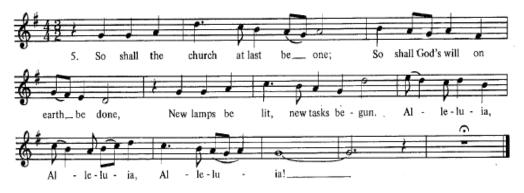
OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

ANTHEM

Christ is the King......Donald Busarow

Congregation:

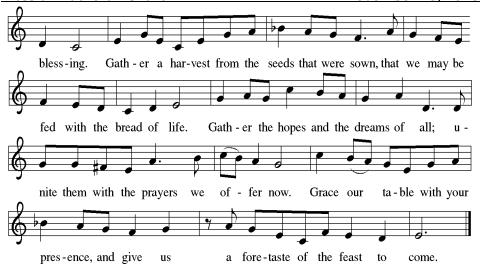


OFFERTORY

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



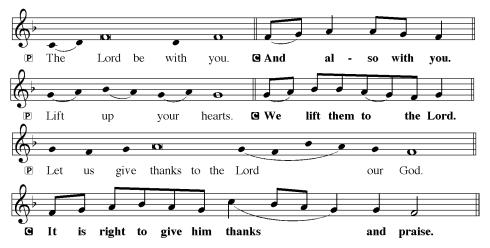
OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray:

©: God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

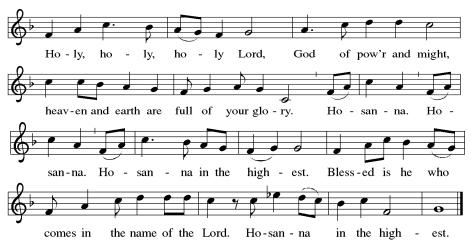
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



EUCHARISTIC 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

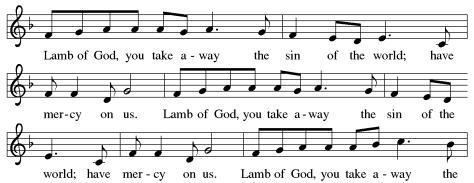
LORD'S PRAYER

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: There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

C: Thanks be to God.



November 25, 2025



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



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.

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world.

Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst,

and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

C: Amen

SENDING

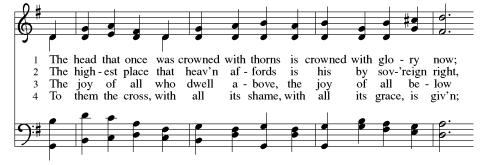
BLESSING

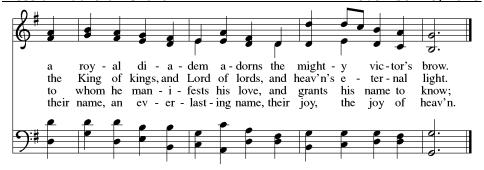
P: Let us pray.

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you + and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN 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!

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855 Music: ST. MAGNUS, Jeremiah Clarke, 1669–1707

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated for the congregational meeting.

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ, Greg Eckenrode; Lav Assistant: Carola Storrs; Comm. Assist.: Sherri Holtzman; Acolyte/Crucifer: Doriann Morris; Altar Guild: Sue Shoemaker, Yvonne Kaiser; Greeters/Comm. Presenters: Sue and Dennis Shoemaker; Cantor: Carol Waltz; Flower Delivery: Marilyn Winter

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 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.*

This morning we welcome Janet Stroble, an Authorized Lay Worship Leader (ALWL) of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Janet has received extensive training so as to provide worship leadership and preaching, and has been authorized by the bishop of the synod to preside at the Eucharist.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship this morning.

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

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 8th.** Please call the church office with any questions. Thank you!

December 7 is our Christmas Dinner, immediately following worship. Please sign-up by Wednesday, December 3. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex or contact church office. Please give number of attendees.

We will decorate the church on Sunday, December 21. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex. Decorating needs are: lights on the tree in the Chancel; lights and Crismons 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.

It's time to start practicing the music for the Christmas Eve services. If you are not in the choir but would like to sing please join us on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. We would love to see you!

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!

Please remember to turn in your Estimate of Giving Pledge Cards and Time and Talent forms. You may place them in the offering plate this morning or at the church office.

announcements continued

Our Advent Kid's Event will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 9 until noon. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Kathryn Pratt at 570-244-6964 if you able to help. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to share God's presence with the children in our community. Thank you, Kathryn

White Gifts Ministry - The Angel Trees are up! Each year, we provide Christmas gifts to families in need who are members of our congregation or whose names we get from the South Williamsport Area School District. Requested items are listed on angel tags which adorn the trees in the narthex. If you'd like to help, please take as many tags as you'd like from the tree, purchase the needed item, and wrap the gift in white paper. Gifts should be brought in and placed in the blue bin in the Chapel alcove by December 14. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Christmas Food Baskets: Our holiday project to fill the baskets we give to families in need at Christmas time is now officially under way! Please see the Messenger for a list of food items we are collecting. Cash donations will also be accepted. All donations are needed no later than December 14.

Christmas Basket recipients are now being identified. If you know someone who could benefit from receiving a Christmas basket, *please contact the church office by Friday, December 5.* Baskets will be ready for pick-up Saturday, December 20.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702 (570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

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!

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24158. 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. Reprinted Hymns by permission of OneLicense.net #A-712396 and CCLI #11444333.