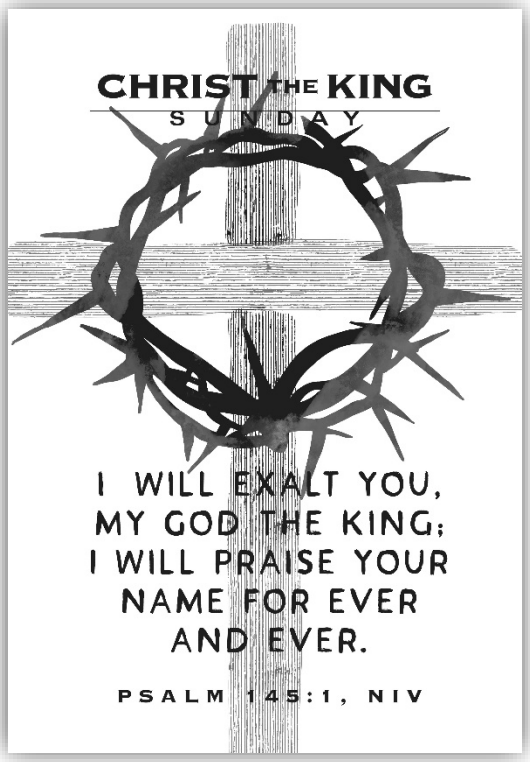
Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✢ Holy Communion ✢

Christ the King

November 22, 2026



CHRIST THE KING

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 we await 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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us pray…

Dear Father in Heaven—to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we might perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the Truth is not in us. But we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us confess all our sins to God, so that we may hear his forgiveness and know his mercy…

Kneel

Silence is kept for meditation…

P: Almighty God, merciful Father:

C: **I have sinned against you in thought, in word, and in deed;**
by what I have done and what I have left undone.
I have not loved you with my whole heart, mind, and strength.
I have not loved my neighbor as myself.
For the sake of your beloved Son, who suffered upon the cross for me, have mercy upon me and forgive me all my sin!

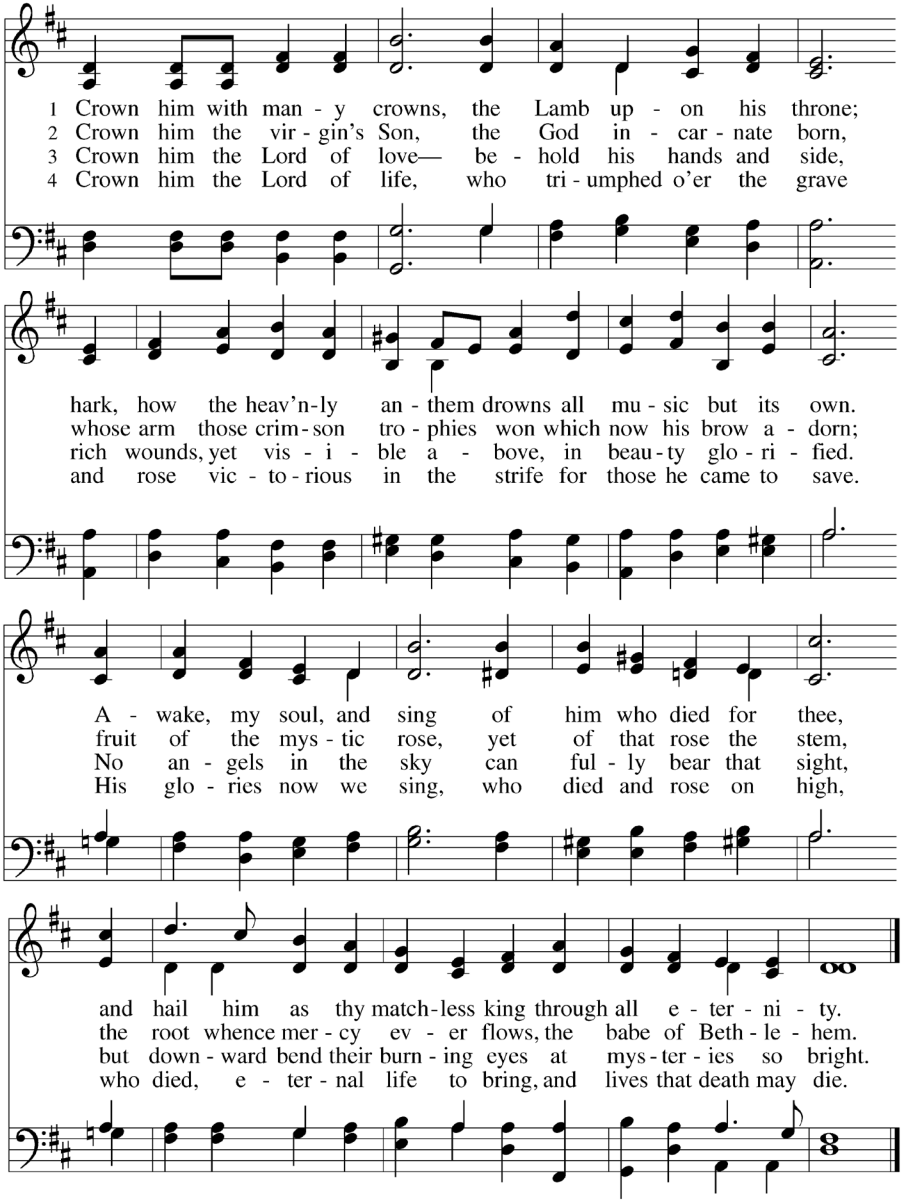
P: Almighty God, our Father in Heaven, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sin. As a Called and Ordained minister of the Church of Jesus Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Stand

The Congregation turns to follow the processional cross.

GATHERING HYMN ***Crown Him with Many Crowns* st. 1, 4-6**



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.

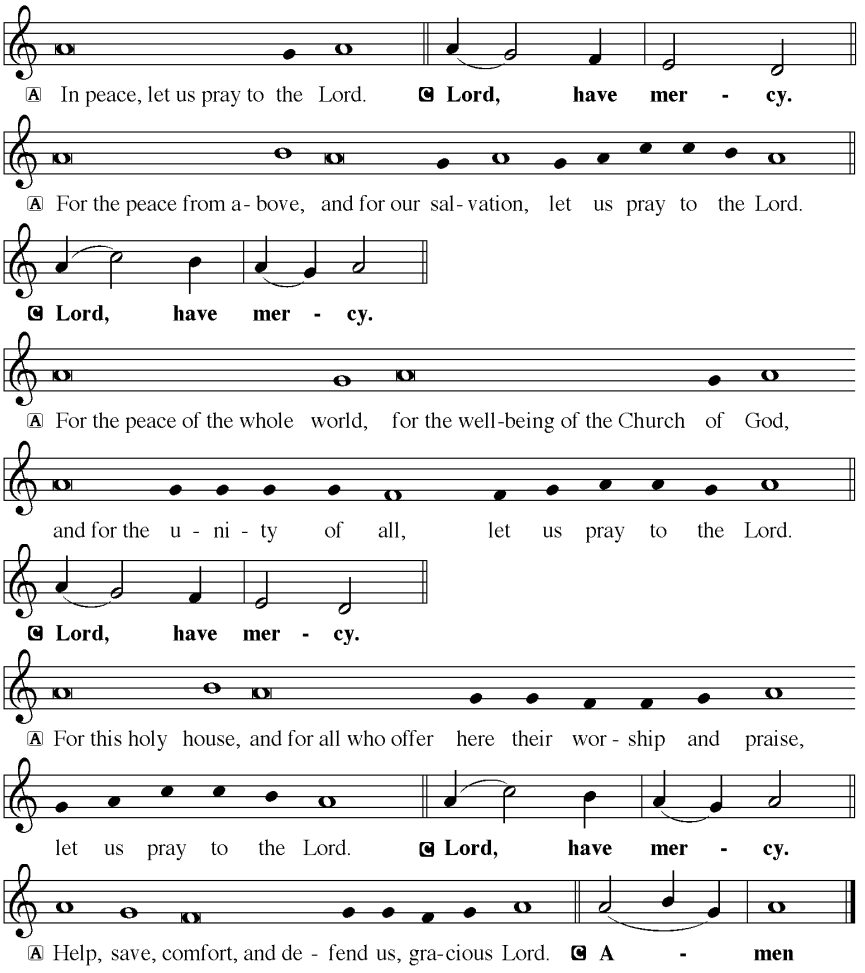
6 Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

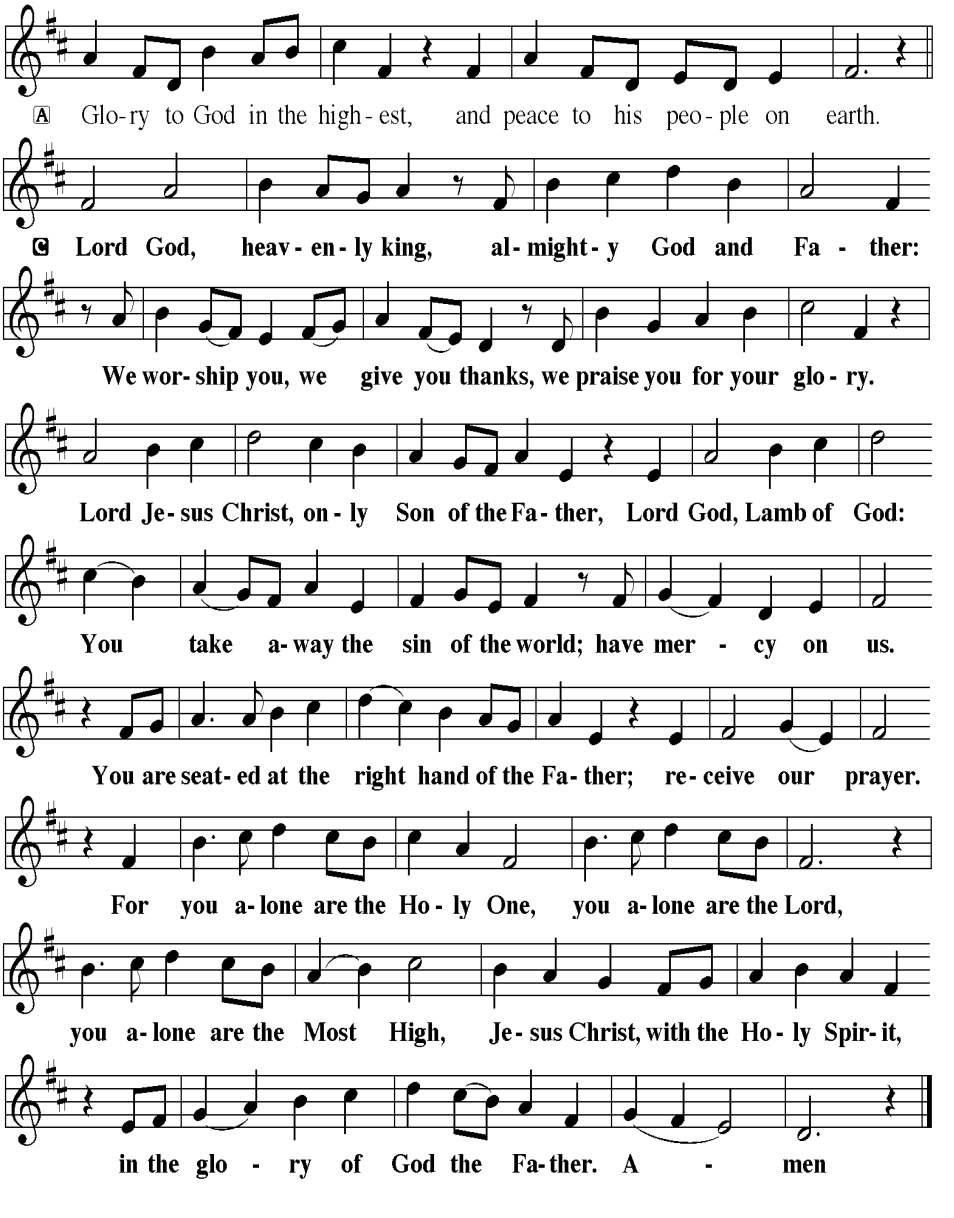
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

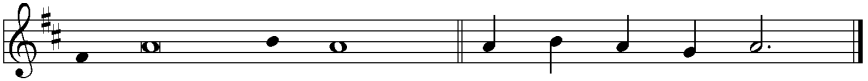
KYRIE



HYMN OF PRAISE

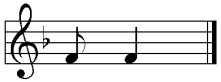


PRAYER OF THE DAY



℗: Let us pray.

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.



Sit

WORD

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: A Reading from Ezekiel:

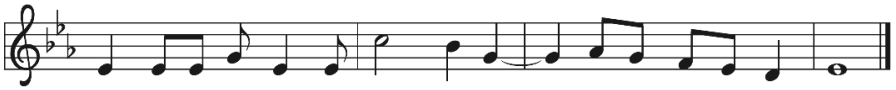
11 Thus says the Lord GOD:
I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out.
12 As shepherds seek out their flocks
when they are among scattered sheep,
so I will seek out my sheep.
I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered
on a day of clouds and thick darkness.
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: The word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a
Sung by the cantor and repeated by the congregation.



Sung responsively between the cantor and congregation.



1Come, let us sing | to the LORD;*
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
2**Let us come before his presence | with thanksgiving***
and raise a loud shout to | him with psalms.
3For the LORD | is a great God,*
and a great King a- | bove all gods.
4**In his hand are the caverns | of the earth,***
and the heights of the hills | are his also.
5The sea is his, | for he made it,*
and his hands have molded | the dry land.
6**Come, let us bow down and | bend the knee,***
and kneel before the | LORD our Maker.
7For he | is our God,*
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep | of his hand. **R.**

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: A Reading from Ephesians:

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus
and your love toward all the saints,
and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you
as I remember you in my prayers,
17 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,
18 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,
19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who
believe, according to the working of his great power.

20 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,
21 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.
22 And he has put all things under his feet
and has made him the head over all things for the church,
23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

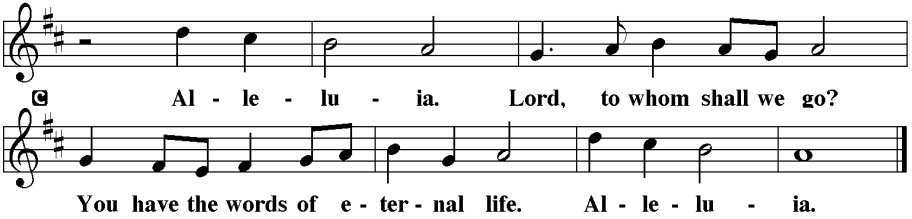
A The word of the Lord.

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



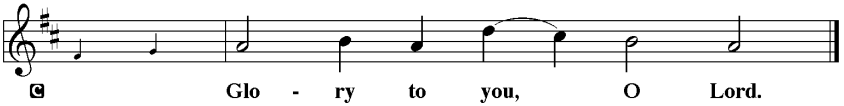
CANTOR: Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our an- | cestor David.

C: Repeat the Alleluias.

GOSPEL: 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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



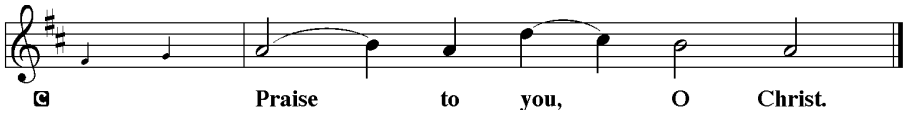
Jesus said to the disciples:
31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him,
then he will sit on the throne of his glory.
32 All the nations will be gathered before him,
and he will separate people one from another
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,
33 and he will 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 who are members of my family, 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."

℗: The Gospel of the Lord.

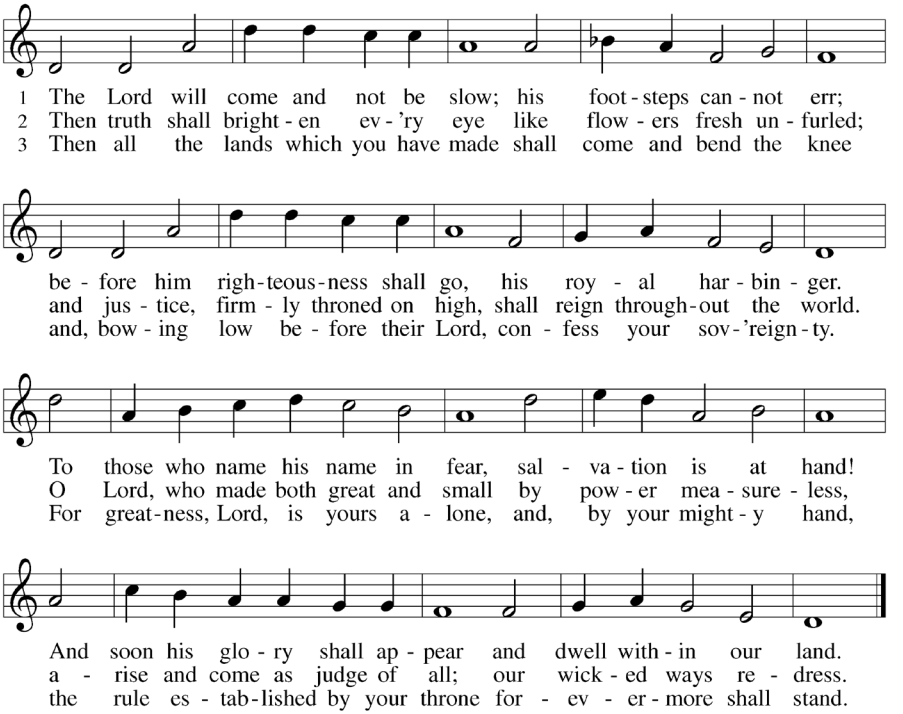


Sit

SERMON.....**Pastor Kliner**

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY ***The Lord Will Come and Not Be Slow***



Text: John Milton, 1608–1674, adapt.
Music: OLD 107TH, Marot, *Trente Pseaulmes de David,* 1542

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people according to their need…

After each petition:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P: All these things, most merciful God, we commend into your hands, 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.

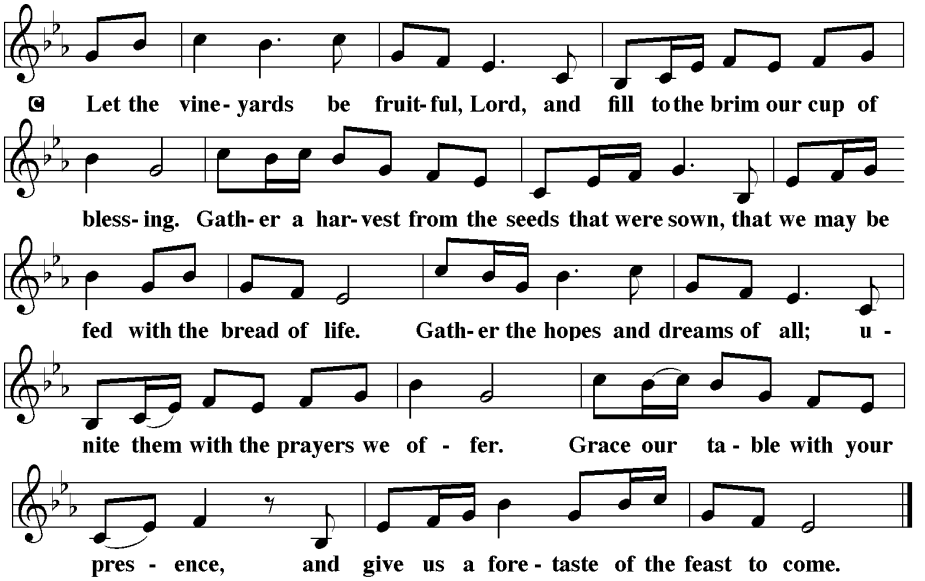
Anthem

Christ Is the King ..... **Donald Busarow**

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

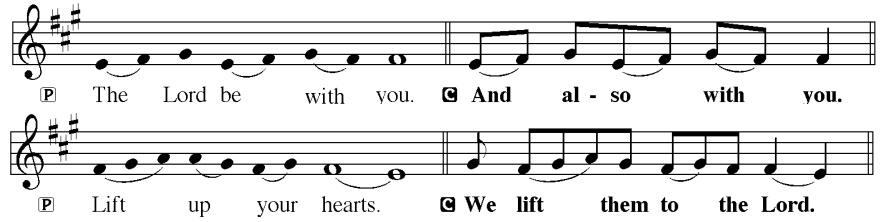
As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

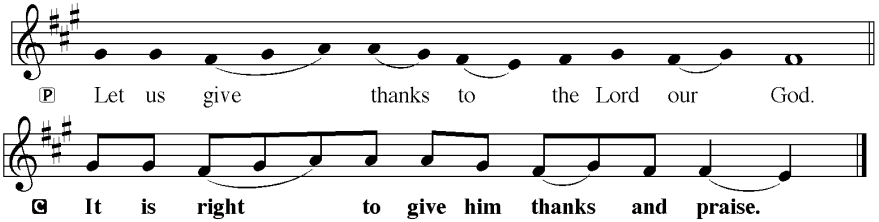


A: Let us pray... Merciful Father,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions—signs of your gracious Love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself to us, + Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

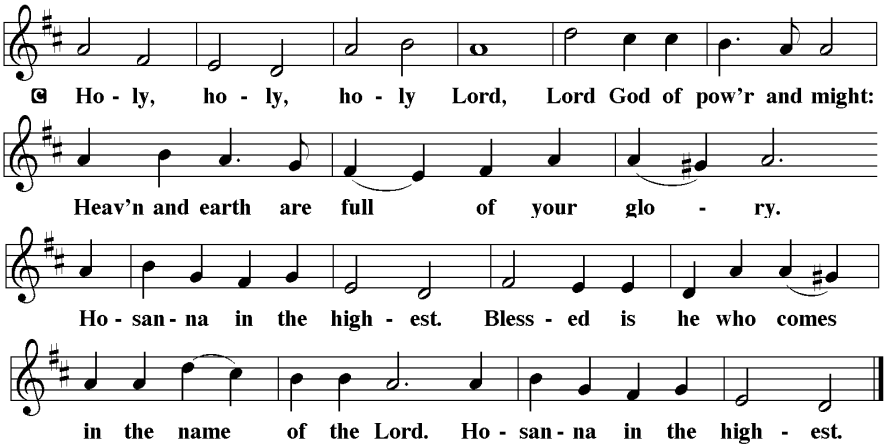
GREAT THANKSGIVING





PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary, that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord; 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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your Name and join their unending hymn…



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

℗: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Heavenly Father: endless is your mercy, and eternal is your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the Prophets, you renewed your promise; and at this, the end of the ages, you sent your only begotten Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your Kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life upon the Cross.

Send your Holy Spirit upon these the gifts of your Church, that they may be for us the very Body ☩and Blood ☩ of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us who receive our Lord's Body and Blood live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your Saints in Light.

℄ **Amen! Come Holy Spirit!**

P: For, in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying:
TAKE AND EAT.
THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN UP FOR YOU.
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.

After supper He took the cup. Again, he gave thanks and praise to you and gave it to them to drink saying:
DRINK OF THIS, ALL OF YOU:
THIS CUP IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT.
IT WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN.
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME**.**

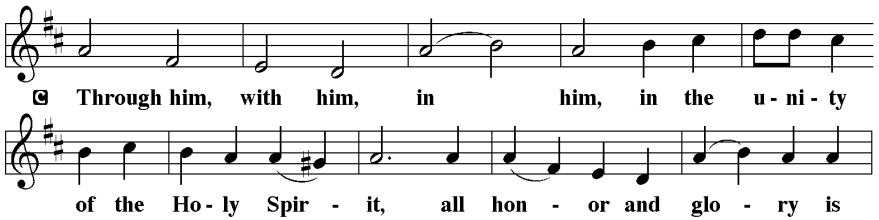
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes again in his glory!

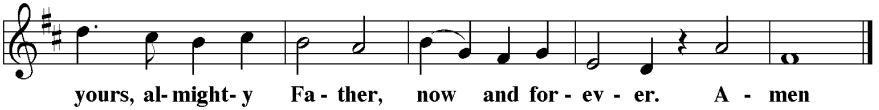
C **Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!**

P: And so, Father Most Holy, calling to mind the death your Son endured for our salvation, his glorious Resurrection and his ascension into heaven, we pray: Look with favor on your Church, and see him whose death has reconciled us to yourself. Grant that we who are nourished by our Lord's body and blood, may be filled with his Holy Spirit, and become one body, one spirit in Christ Jesus, and believing the witnesses of his Resurrection, be sustained in the Faith and Hope of our Lord's coming in power and glory to share with us the great and promised Feast.

C **Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!**

P: Join now our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the prayers of the Faithful throughout the ages—the Patriarchs and Prophets, the Holy Apostles and Martyrs, and all your Saints in Light who lived and died in Faith. Strengthen in faith and love your pilgrim Church here on earth—together with our Bishops, Pastors, Deacons and the entire people your son has won for you through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Welcome into your Kingdom all our departed brothers and sisters, and all who have left this world in your friendship. Unite all these prayers with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest, Jesus Christ, until he comes as Victorious Lord of all…

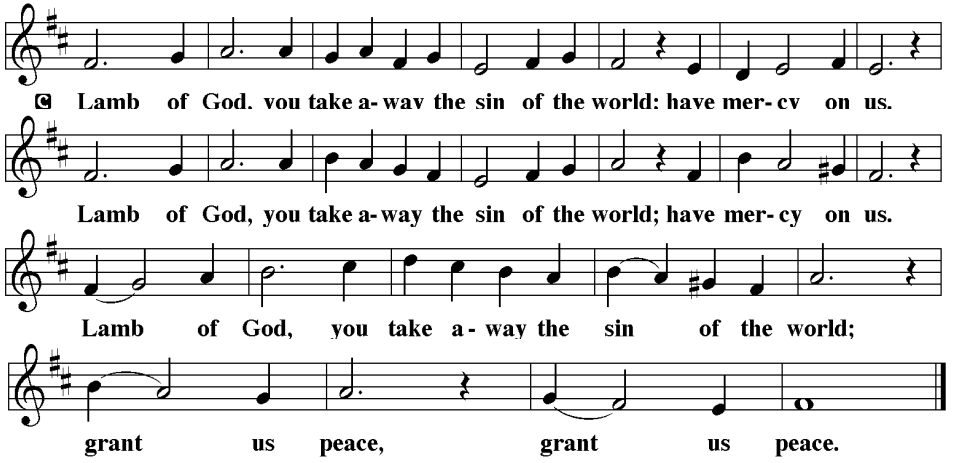




LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words that our Lord Jesus Christ has given us…

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



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Pastor lifts the Bread and Chalice and says:

P: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

C: Thanks be to God!

P: The Holy Things for the Holy people:

C: One is Holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God!

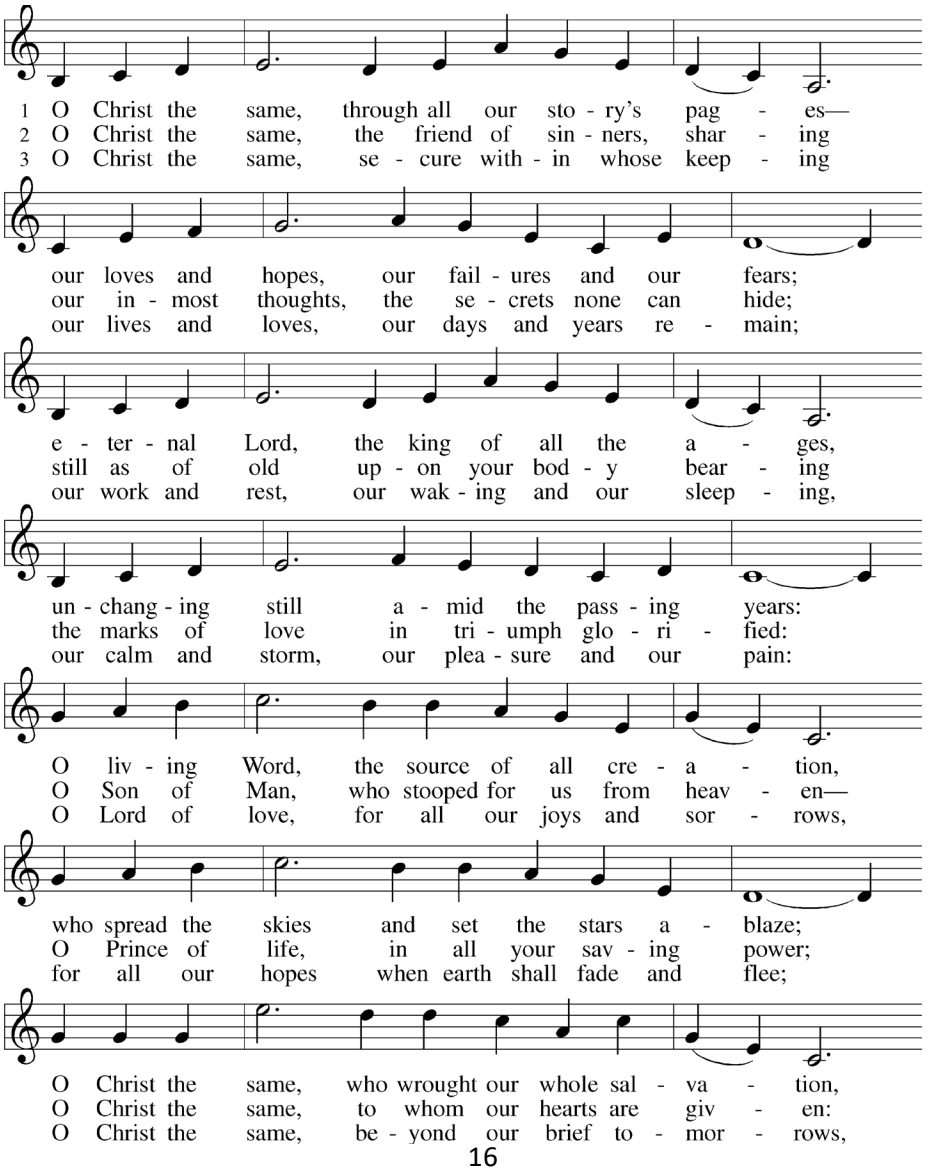
Sit

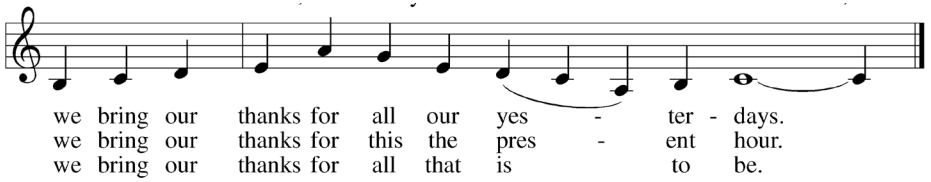
COMMUNION

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 *Christ the Same*





Text: Timothy Dudley–Smith, b. 1926
Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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…
Father in Heaven, you provide the true Bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his Body and Blood, may abide in him, and he in us, so that we might abound in Faith, Hope, and Love; to the glory of your name.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

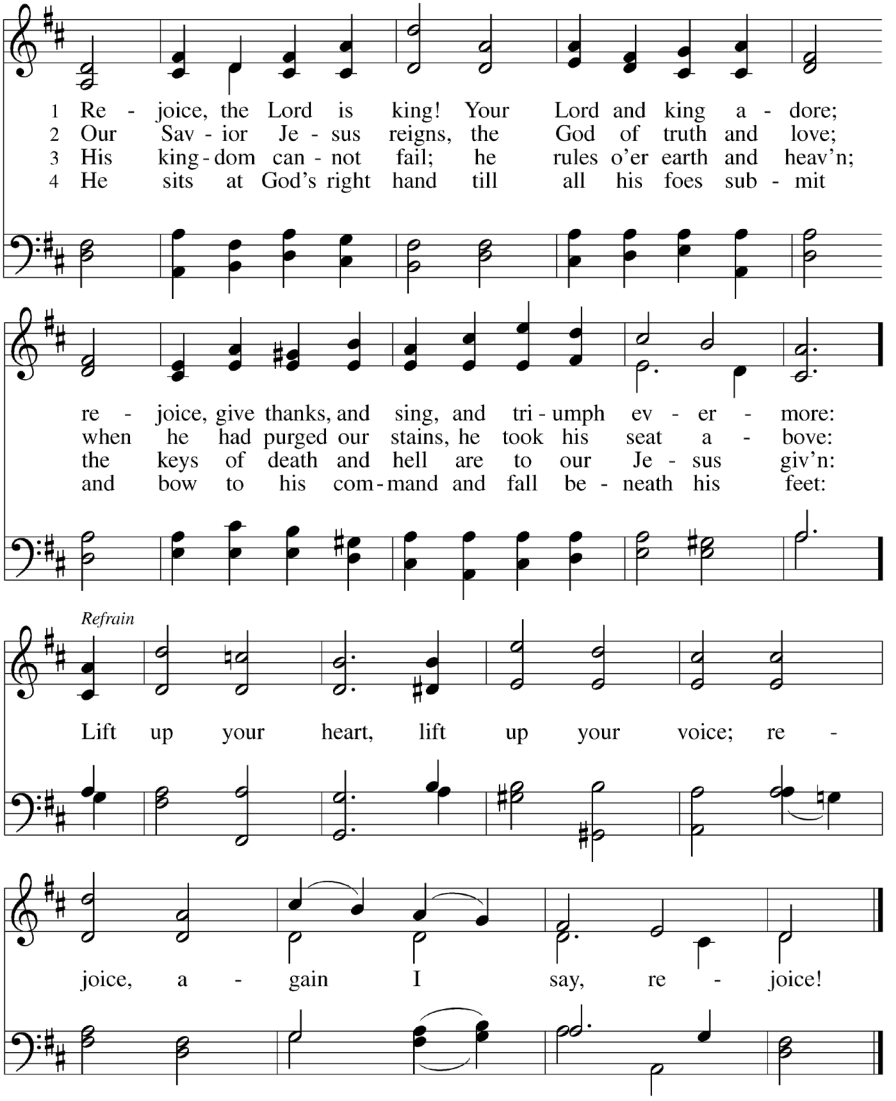
BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. And may almighty God—the Father, ☩ The Son, and The Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The congregation turns to face the processional cross.

SENDING HYMN ***Rejoice, the Lord Is King!***



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: LAUS REGIS, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

DISMISSAL

A: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Fred Harbaugh, Jean Nolan, Diana Rooker, Susan Christ, Vic Beach
Lay Assistant: Georgette Copp; **Comm. Assist.:** Mary Schultz
Acolyte/Crucifer: Dylan Sherman; **Altar Guild:** Susan Bryan, April Gardner;
Greeters/Presenters: Dennis and Sue Shoemaker**; Cantor:** Janet Stroble
Flower Delivery: Jody Fullmer

IN BLESSED MEMORY

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor and 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.

Congregational Christmas Dinner will be Sunday, December 6th immediately following worship. Please bring a dessert to share. Be sure to sign-up on the sheet provided in the Narthex. *All are welcome.*

Copies of *Love's Pure Life,* an Advent Devotional, are now available in the Narthex.

Please remember to hand in your Time and Talent surveys and Estimate of Giving Pledge Cards. You may place them in the offering plate this morning or at the church office. There are still envelopes in the back of the Sanctuary to be picked up.

Bible Study is each Wednesday at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

The Advent Kids in Mission will be held on December 5th and as always, we'll need some help. If you are able to help please let me know. More information will follow. Thank you for your support. Kathryn Pratt 570-244-6964

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. Each child is provided with articles of clothing and a wish item. 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 13. Cash donations will also be accepted.

Christmas Food Baskets 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 13.
If you know someone who could benefit from receiving a Christmas basket, ***please contact the church office by Friday, December 4.*** Baskets will be ready for pick-up Saturday, December 20.

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Gerald Kliner, STS, Senior Pastor
JARED GIST, ORGANIST
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Jesus' Leadership Style

Many workplaces invite staff members to determine their unique leadership styles through inventories or assessments. Countless resources are available to aid this process, from short online quizzes to lengthy books that probe people's motivations for leading in particular ways. The results of these assessments can reflect how people's personalities and values interact with their natural skills and gifts. When coworkers discuss the results together, they can determine how best to work as a team, playing to one another's strengths.

On this Christ the King Sunday, we might ponder this question: What is Jesus' leadership style? The gospel writers offer countless examples of Jesus leading his ragtag community of followers. He shares meals, preaches and teaches, offers healing, and sometimes gets into hot water with religious and political authorities. Looking at different facets of his ministry, we might say his compassion and relational strength shine through in moments of one-on-one connection and healing; his strong teaching presence and communication gifts dominate during lengthy discourses like the Sermon on the Mount; his generous hospitality stands out in the miracles of multiplication and in countless meals shared with people of all sorts.

Today's gospel reading presents a very particular side of Jesus, which we might add to this list of his leadership qualities: He is a visionary, prophetic advocate for justice. His instructions to feed, clothe, and visit people who live on the margins offer us an image of Jesus that challenges his followers to follow the call to work for justice. How do Jesus' strong words move us to live differently? How will we and the church respond to the call to justice that echoes through the ages?

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