St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Christ the King

November 22, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.



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.

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WELCOME

Please stand

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN — Crown Him with Many Crowns ELW 855



CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.
P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
C: Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to our help. All hearts are revealed to you, all desires are known by you, and no secrets are hidden from you. We are curved in on ourselves by sin. Open us by the power of your Holy Spirit that we may cleanse our hearts, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.
P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,
C: We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A: A reading from the Book of Ezekiel, the thirty-fourth chapter.

11 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: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:15-23

A: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, the first chapter.

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 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 perceive
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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Precious Lord, Take My Hand ELW 773

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take My Hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

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

[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 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: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

MESSAGE

Please stand

HYMN — You Are My King (Amazing Love)

I'm forgiven
Because You were forsaken.
I'm accepted,
You were condemned.
I'm alive and well.
Your Spirit is within me
Because You died
And rose again.

Amazing love,
How can it be.
That You, my King
Would die for me?

Amazing love,
I know it's true.
It's my joy to honor You.
In all I do, I honor You.

You are my King.
You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King.
Jesus, You are my King.

Amazing love,
How can it be.
That You, my King
Would die for me?
Amazing love,
I know it's true.
It's my joy to honor You.
In all I do, I honor You.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P: Bound together by the Spirit, let us confess our faith:
C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

P: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence.
P: God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

Please stand

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until all the world is fed and no one is hungry.
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
surrounded by evil and bordered by death we cry to you
our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.
We praise you for Christ who proclaimed your reign of peace
and promised an end to injustice and harm.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death
and the victory of his resurrection
we await with all the saints
his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine
and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son:
teach us your mercy and justice and make all things new in Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.
C: Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together our Lord's Prayer:

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.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

P: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost,
bind the injured,
and feed your people.
Now send us out,
awake to your presence,
now and forever.
C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

P: The holy Trinity,
Creator, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN — Build Your Kingdom Here

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here we pray

Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your church
We need Your pow'r in us

We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captives' hearts released
The hurt the sick the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause
We are Your church
We pray revive this earth

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here we pray

Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church
We are the hope on earth

Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here we pray

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C: Thanks be to God.

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