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**Christ the King Sunday**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*November 26, 2023*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God’s grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

* **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women’s bathroom.

**WORSHIP THEME**

Jesus Christ is the King of Kings. He will come and establish his eternal kingdom to take the place of every earthly kingdom. All the pride, arrogance, and mockery of the nations will be laid low in his judgment. The wise acknowledge his reign before he comes; the foolish think that they can somehow defy the Almighty.

The season of End Time focuses us on eternal things: the eternal gospel of free and full forgiveness in Christ (Reformation Sunday); the eternal judgment that Christ will bring upon his return (Last Judgment Sunday); the eternal joys of heaven (Saints Triumphant Sunday); and Christ’s eternal reign as King of Kings (Christ the King Sunday). During this season, we will hear messages from the prophet Daniel, who saw glimpses of these eternal truths, even as he lived in exile.



***The Common Service***

*The high and holy worship of God is faith in Jesus Christ. Such faith is created and sustained by God’s service to us (the German, “Gottesdienst,” “The Divine Service”). In the Divine Service, the Lord comes to us in His Word and Sacrament to bless and enliven us with His gifts. The Service is not something we do for God, but His service to us received in faith. The liturgy is God’s work. He gives, we receive.*

**HYMN** *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* **| CW 361**

**INVOCATION**

M: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**CONFESSION**

*We confess our sins with the words of Daniel chapter 9 and in the spirit of the Reformation: we plead God’s grace alone, we allow Scripture alone to bind our consciences and lead us into truth, and we trust that by faith in Christ’s righteousness alone we stand justified before God.*

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, for he is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him. Let us seek the favor of the Lord our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to his truth:

**C: Holy and merciful Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful. You are righteous, and we are covered with shame. We have not obeyed you or kept the laws you have given through your servants. We have sinned and done wrong. Please turn away your anger and wrath. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.**

# absolution

M: Lord, look with favor on your people and hear the prayers and petitions of your servants. Give ear and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of our sins and the grieving of our spirits.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us. He has listened to our cries for mercy and acted: for his own sake, he sent his Son to bear our shame and clothe us with his righteousness. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✙ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**: **Amen**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C:  Glory be to God on high,**

**and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,**

**We glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory.**

**O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.**

**O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.**

**You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.**

**For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.**

**You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**Are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, by your victory you have broken the power of the evil one. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim you King of kings and Lord of lords to your unending praise and glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**FIRST LESSON** *Daniel 4:28–37*

*King Nebuchadnezzar failed to acknowledge God as his king—until he felt the weight of God’s judgment.*

**28**All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. **29**Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, **30**he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”

**31**Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. **32**You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.”

**33**Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

**34**At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

**35**All the peoples of the earth  
    are regarded as nothing.  
He does as he pleases  
    with the powers of heaven  
    and the peoples of the earth.  
No one can hold back his hand  
    or say to him: “What have you done?”

**36**At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. **37**Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

**PSALM** *Psalm 47, page 85*

**SECOND LESSON** *1 Corinthians 15:20–28*

*Christ will put all his enemies under his feet, including death itself.*

**20**But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21**For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. **22**For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **23**But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. **24**Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, 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 he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. **28**When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

**VERSE OF THE DAY** *Revelation 22:13*

**Alleluia. I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Alleluia.**

**THE GOSPEL** *Matthew 27:27–31*

*The terrible irony of the soldiers’ mocking: they spoke the truth, but they could not recognize their true King.*

**27**Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. **28**They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, **29**and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. **30**They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. **31**After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there 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.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *The Head That Once Was Crowned***| CW 217**

**SERMON** *Daniel 4*

**OFFERTORY**

**C:  Create in me a clean heart, O God,**

**And renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from your presence**

**And take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,**

**And uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*In response to God’s love and forgiveness, we give back a portion of what he has given us. The members of Christ Lutheran Church have joined to proclaim the gospel to this community. These offerings support that work. While our guests are welcome to participate, they should not feel obligated to do so.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Heavenly King, You have purchased the Church with Your precious blood. Preserve her in the pure teaching of Your Word, in the right use of the Sacraments and in the unity of the faith.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer**.

M: Heavenly King, You send out Your invitation that all who believe in You should take their seats at His feast. By the proclamation of Your Church, gather many, however evil they may be, to repent and fill Your eternal banquet hall.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly King, bless all families and the homes in which our people dwell. Grant grace to husbands and wives, that they may fulfill their vocations to one another and to their children. Grant also that, as a family, they may faithfully teach and learn the faith.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly King, keep Your coming always at the forefront of heart and mind, that subject for His sake to the fleeting powers of this world, we may live in continual godliness and the peace that passes all understanding.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly King for whom we wait, You promise to wipe away the tears from all faces. Bless all who weep here, that at the last they may be comforted, restored and received into the banquet of heaven.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly King, You have prepared a table before us in the midst of those who refuse Your invitation. Keep Your Church unstained by the world, that we may partake of our Lord’s Supper worthily, clothed in His baptismal grace.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly King, give us such joy in pursuing what is true, just, pure and worthy of praise that, spurning the temptations of this world, we would suffer no anxiety. Let our trust be placed fully in You and let our hope rest in the life of the world to come; through You, O Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4*

**C: Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

M**:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✙ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name***| CW 370**

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Pastor Timothy Leistekow

**WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace

through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities

both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

**Look what Christ is doing!**

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

He sends us out with the gospel

*“Now you are the body of Christ,*

*and each one of you is a part of it.”*

*(1 Corinthians 12:27)*