



November 23, 2025

Christ the King Sunday

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

- ♪ Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.
- ♪ Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.
- ♪ Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.
- ♪ Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.
- ♪ Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 525—Text (sts. 1–3, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800–94, alt.; (st. 4):
Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903; Text: Public domain*

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,

And all the families of the nations shall worship before You.

Psalms 22:27

Now thus says the Lord, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are Mine.”

Isaiah 43:1

Confession and Absolution

The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness

**And transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.**

Colossians 1:13-14

Almighty God and King,

We confess that we have broken trust with You. We have doubted Your goodness, neglected Your ways, and sought to satisfy our sinful nature. We do not think, speak, or act like Your treasured possession. We bring before You our faults and failures, honestly and humbly recognizing that we deserve to be cast out of Your kingdom. Have mercy, O Lord, our King, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Spare us from Your wrath, deliver us from death and darkness, and cleanse us from sin, that we serve You in righteousness, innocence, and blessedness now and always. Amen. *A Time of Silence*

On His cross, Jesus Christ, your Savior, was crowned with shame and given unto death for You. His blood pays the price Your sins deserve. Now crowned with glory, the risen and reigning Christ the King lives to declare your sins forgiven. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Beautiful Savior”

♪ Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

♪ Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

♪ Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.

♪ Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forevermore be Thine!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 537- Text: Munsterisch Gesangbuch, Munster, 1677, tr. Joseph A. Seiss 1823-1904; Public Domain.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved
into the heart of the sea,**

Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth.

He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:13–18

¹³“Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ ¹⁴You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the Lord of hosts?’ ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.”

¹⁶Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. ¹⁷“They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Colossians 1:13–20

¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

- ♪ Come, Thou almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing; Help us to praise;
Father all-glorious, O'er all victorious, Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.
- ♪ Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword; Our prayer attend.
Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success, And let Thy righteousness
On us descend.
- ♪ Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev'ry heart, And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.

Please Stand

- ♪ To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be Hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty May we in glory see, And to eternity
Love and adore.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 905—Text: English, before 1760, alt.; Text: Public domain

Holy Gospel

Luke 23:27–43

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁷And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

- ♪ All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
- ♪ Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God, Who from His altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse’s rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse’s rod And crown Him Lord of all.
- ♪ Ye seed of Israel’s chosen race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
- ♪ Hail Him, ye heirs of David’s line, Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.
- ♪ Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget The wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
- ♪ Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
- ♪ Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.
We’ll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 549—Text (sts. 1–5): Edward Perronet, 1726–92, alt.; (sts. 6–7):
A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt.; Text: Public domain*

Proclamation of the Word

“Your Spiritual King Exists! The Question Is: Who Is It?”

Colossians 1:13–20

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy.

Heal us and hear us, O King.

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

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

2 Corinthians 13:14

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“O Worship the King”

- ♪ O worship the King, all-glorious above. O gratefully sing His pow’r and His love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
- ♪ O tell of His might, O sing of His grace, Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
- ♪ This earth, with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, Thy pow’r hath founded of old,
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.
- ♪ Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
- ♪ Frail children of dust and feeble as frail, In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend!
- ♪ O measureless Might, ineffable Love, While angels delight to hymn Thee above,
Thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
With true adoration shall sing to Thy praise.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 804—Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.; Text: Public domain

Postlude