

St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Crossroads (ELCA)

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Sunday, November 25, 2018

Christ the King Sunday

Holy Communion

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, they still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.



LET YOUR GUARD DOWN,
LET GOD IN,
BE AMONG FRIENDS

WELCOME . . .

We are privileged to have you as our guest in the Lord's house this morning. We pray that the time you share with us will be meaningful for you and that God will bless you through it. If you have a question that is not answered here, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you.

Registry: Please take time to complete the registry/attendance sheet found in the pew in the black folder at the center aisle. It is important to us that we know who is worshipping with us today. Thank you.

Worship: This booklet is our order of worship for today. Hymns are found in the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" hymnals located in the racks on the back of the pew in front of you. Everything else is printed in this booklet.

Our worship includes **Holy Communion**. As Christians in the Lutheran heritage, we believe that our Lord Jesus is physically present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine we receive. However, if you believe that Jesus' body and blood were given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins, you are welcome to commune with us, regardless of your faith background. A white grape juice is available at the center of the tray for those who do not wish to receive wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those with gluten sensitivity.

If you desire to receive communion but are unable to come forward to the communion rail, inform the usher of such and communion will be brought to you.

. . . WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Ministers: The people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Crossroads	
Pastor:	Pastor Creighton
Greeters:	Thor and Mary Jane Henrikson
Accompanist:	Kathy Westerfeld
Acolytes:	Will Westerfeld and Bradley Wirth
Assisting Minister:	Debbie Mack
Reader:	Gena Mack
Communion Assistant:	Gena Mack
Sound System:	Jordan Meyer
Offering Counters:	Larry Siebert and Arnie Wehr
Altar Committee:	Carol Siebert

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who calls us into an everlasting hope, who guides us to springs of the water of life, who enlightens us with the spirit of wisdom.
Amen.

One with the communion of saints in all times and places,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

O God, our merciful redeemer,
we confess the ways we live only for ourselves. We fail to see you in our neighbor's face. We turn our ears from voices that cry out. We pass by the hungry and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive our sin and strengthen us for service to all in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you,
and for † his sake, God forgives you all your sin.
Blessed are you! Rejoice and be glad, beloved people of God.
Amen.

GREETING

The presiding minister and assembly greet one another.

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

And also with you.

KYRIE

ELW p. 203

A Kyrie may be sung in dialogue between an assisting minister and the assembly.

♪ **Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

♪ **Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

♪ **Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 204

♪ **Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

♪ **Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

♪ **Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One who is judge will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

A reading from the seventh chapter of Daniel.

⁹As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
 and an Ancient One took his throne,
his clothing was white as snow,
 and the hair of his head like pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
 and its wheels were burning fire.
¹⁰A stream of fire issued
 and flowed out from his presence.
A thousand thousands served him,
 and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.
The court sat in judgment,
 and the books were opened.
¹³As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
 coming with the clouds of heaven.
And he came to the Ancient One
 and was presented before him.

¹⁴To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 93

The psalm is read responsively by verse.

¹The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

²**Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;
you are from everlasting.**

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

⁴**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea,
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.**

⁵Your testimonies are very sure,
and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

A reading from the first chapter of Revelation.

^{4b}Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from

the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: *Mighty Is Our God*

The assembly stands to acclaim the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 205

**♪ Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

GOSPEL: John 18:33-37

In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

The holy gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³³Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief

priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Beautiful Savior*

ELW 838

APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.

With the people of God gathered here and throughout the world, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, you love us and free us through the death and resurrection of your Son. Lead your church through the gospel. Bless pastors, deacons, musicians, teachers, and all who speak your truth. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You reveal your goodness through the majesty of what you have created. Bring favorable weather to places affected by storms, protect plants and animals from devastation, and guide us in our use of all natural resources. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You desire justice in the world. Grant to courts wise and discerning judges, attorneys, and public defenders, and guide the rulers of nations to bring about peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You are our beginning and end. Soothe the afflicted, comfort the distressed, console the bereaved, and heal the sick, especially those listed in the bulletin and prayer book, and those we name aloud or in our hearts at this time. Give all who provide care a measure of your compassion and peace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call us to serve our neighbors. Nourish us with word and sacrament so that we serve as your hands and feet in the world. Protect those who are traveling, and bless those who are unable to attend worship today. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your dominion is forever and ever. We give thanks for the faithful departed who live with the saints of all ages in your infinite love. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray and all for whom we have forgotten or neglected to pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING SONG: *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful*

ELW 182

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads a prayer.

Let us pray together.

Creator God,

you made everything, and you provide for every need. The bread we break and the wine we pour come from you. As we eat and drink with thanksgiving, fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

ELW p. 144

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**



Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 207

**♪Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues.

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.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in invitation.

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at Christ's table! If you are a visitor and receive communion at your home church, you are invited to do so here. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 208

**♪ O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**♪ O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**♪ O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Thine the Amen*

ELW 826

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may address the assembly.

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

+++++

We remember in Prayer:

Carol Bergman

Chris Meyer

Leon Siebert

Aaron Nicholson

Todd Siebert

Art and Karen Salvitti

Marlin and Julia Siebert

Melody Briner (Marilyn Gausman's daughter)
Kasey Hester (friend of Marilyn Gausman's son Michael)
Nick and Ivy Gunter and their unborn twins
Ruth Booster (wife of former pastor)
Lois Bastien Brown (Tim Salvitti's grandmother-in-law)
Marie Dierckman (Ginny Low's mother)
Steve Gookins (Friend of Les & Martha Kessens and Dennis & Andrea Westerfeld)
Bonnie Haughn (Sabrina Salvitti Haughn's mother-in-law)
Leonard (husband of Lisa Gausman's friend)
George Lerosé (Art Salvitti's brother-in-law)
Stella Long (Marilyn Gausman's sister-in-law)
Tessa Mayer (wife of Wanda Siebert's principal)
Nate McClintic (Spouse of Debbie Mack's co-worker)
Bekah Netherton (daughter of Debbie Mack's friend)
Erin Newcomb (Hauser HS student)
Ronnie Nicholson (Darrell's brother)
Barry Norman (Lisa Gausman's former principal)
Carol Rayve (Karen Salvitti's mother)
Ted Rayve (Karen Salvitti's brother)
Beverly Richardson (Laura Nicholson's mother)
Kristina Salvitti (Art's daughter)
Gary Schopmeyer (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)
Charlie Seibert (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)
John Ward (Eunice Sisson's brother-in-law)
Jasmine Westerfeld (Sharon Brown's great-granddaughter)
Melinda Wilson (wife of Ben Wilson)

anyone affected by natural disasters, warfare and violence
all who serve in the military

Honored Members:

Allen and Mary Lou Narwold Bill Westerfeld

Our members at St. Andrew's: Julia Siebert Ruth Thackery

Our Partner Churches: Middle East Council of Churches with offices in Cyprus and
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Madison

Today:

Welcome! Together, let us worship Christ our King, who is “robed in majesty” (Psalm 93:1, NRSV).

December newsletters are available in the narthex. Please take yours – and any for your family – as you leave this morning.

This Week:

Office Hours – Monday	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Pr. Creighton’s office hours – Monday – Thursday	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Tuesday – SEIC Clergy meeting	10:00 AM
Wednesday – M’rita Moms	6:15 PM
1 st Year Confirmation	6:30 – 8:00 PM
Choir Practice	7:30 PM
Sunday - Sunday School	9:00 AM
Worship Service	10:00 AM

Upcoming Events / Announcements:

The Food Pantry is **collecting items for the holiday baskets**. They are asking us to collect 300 canned fruits and/or vegetables. Please consider assisting with this vital community ministry. Your generosity and cooperation are greatly appreciated by our neighbors in need.

Pr. Creighton will be leading a **Blue Christmas worship service** Sunday, Dec. 2nd at 6:30 pm. This service is designed for those for whom the holiday season may be difficult.

Advent worship services will be on Wednesdays during December at 6:30 pm. Please consider taking a quiet break from the hustle and bustle of the season to prepare yourself for the Christ Child's birth.

Plan ahead for December events:

Hanging of the Greens – December 2nd following worship
Christmas Caroling – December 9th at 1:00 pm

Friends of the Batesville Library are hosting an **Almost New Book Sale** on December 7 and 8. Please see the bulletin board for more information.

St. Anthony Church in Morris is presenting their **Live Nativity** on December 7-8. A flyer with more information is posted on the bulletin board.

FCN Bank is hosting a **Blood Drive** on Tuesday, Dec. 11th at their Batesville location. Times are 10am – 12:15pm and 1:30 – 3:30pm. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.



Love Redefines Power and Dominion

In fairy tales, kings live in a castle, usually located on a hill (a safe place), surrounded by a moat for the utmost protection for the king and family. Modern political leaders often have more technologically advanced means to provide a similar level of safety against would-be attackers. Because of these preconceived notions of what kings are, hearers will need to be reminded that Jesus redefined the title “king.” The appointed psalm says, “The waters have lifted up, O LORD, . . . the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, mightier is the LORD who dwells on high” (Ps. 93:3-4). While a king might have the ability to sail atop a roaring, chaotic sea, Christ the King is one who stills the waves (Mark 4:35-41). In John’s gospel for today, Jesus says “For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth” (John 18:37). Perhaps the ‘this’ Jesus is referring to is a motioning with his hands to the cross, the most clear demonstration of God’s love for humanity and the truest definition of kingship. Jesus redefines what power is and what people think God’s power looks like to fight evil and suffering in the world. Jesus does not resist the way of the cross with force.

Rather than protecting himself from harm in any way, the vulnerable King Jesus dares to demonstrate God’s love for all people. Jesus does not run from pain, anguish, or suffering. Rather, the risen Jesus, “the ruler of the kings of the earth” (Rev. 1:5), rushes to the places of disaster and suffering in the world. Jesus goes where storms are ravaging and have ravaged lives and brings life and calm into the chaos.

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