

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Sat. Nov. 25, 2023, 6:00 p.m. & Sun. Nov. 26, 2023, 8:30 a.m.

Order of Worship

* indicates congregation stands

We welcome all people in the Name of Jesus Christ!

John 3:16-17

Prelude

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven *A.L. Page*

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns *LSB 525*



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
4 Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave
5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,



Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save.
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.



A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who
Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown



hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
died e - ter - nal life to bring And lives that death may die.
Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.

Text and tune: Public domain

* Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

* Confession and Absolution

Ezekiel 34:11; 1 Corinthians 15:27

Leader: Let us confess our unworthiness and ask His grace and mercy.

Through Ezekiel, God said that He would “search for My sheep and will seek them out.”

All: We confess that we have wandered away as erring sheep, preferring the pleasures of this world rather than the rich pastures You have provided. Forgive us, O Lord.

Leader: Paul wrote that “God has put all things in subjection under [Christ’s] feet.”

All: We confess that we have not always been loyal subjects of our Lord, but have made decisions based on our own thoughts and desires. Forgive us, O Lord.

Leader: Jesus foretold that He will judge people about how they treated others—the hungry, strangers, and prisoners.

All: We confess that we have not always sought to share Your love and meet the needs of the people around us. We cannot change without Your grace, mercy, and strength. Forgive us, O Lord.

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our ✠ Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

* Kyrie

Leader: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Leader: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Leader: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

* Hymn of Praise

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven *LSB 793*



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To His feet your
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore Him; You be - hold Him



trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore Him,



Ev - er - more His prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia,
All who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King.
al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Text and tune: Public domain

* Prayer of the Day

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray. Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 NIV

God will shepherd His people Himself.

Lector: The Old Testament Reading is from the 34th chapter of Ezekiel.

“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

“Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I

the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Epistle

I Corinthians 15:20–28 NIV

Christ is the first to rise from death; death will be destroyed.

Lector: The Epistle is from the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 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. 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir Anthem

Since By Man Came Death

I Cor. 15:21, 22 G. F. Handel, 1741

Since by man came death,
by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Please stand to sing the Alleluia and Verse.

* Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the Alleluia and Verse, with lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?". The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.".

* Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46 *NIV*

The Christian life involves loving the people around us.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

All: Glory to You, O Lord.

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I

was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You. O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name *LSB 549*



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;
6 Let ev - 'ry kin-dred, ev - 'ry tribe, On this ter - res-trial ball
7 Oh, that with yon - der sa - cred throng We at His feet may fall!



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all maj - es - ty as - crite And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all maj - es - ty as - crite And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song And crown Him Lord of all.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

"Jesus Difference Becomes Our Difference"

Matthew 25:31-46 NIV

Rev. Robert Flohrs

* Apostles' Creed

**All: I believe in God,
the Father almighty,**

maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence 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

*Offerings will be received at the end of the service
as you exit the Sanctuary.*

* Offertory

“Create In Me”



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

* Prayer of the Church

Leader: Let us pray for people here and around the world who are destitute, fearful of God's wrath, shunned by society, unjustly accused, or dealing with issues of health. As You have promised, Lord our God, seek out, we pray, those who, devoid of basic necessities, face today without homes, with few possessions, and an uncertain future.

All: For the sake of our Good Shepherd, lead them to the food, shelter, and security they desperately need.

Leader: With the Gospel in the hearts and on the lips of Christ's Church, heavenly Father, enable our brothers and sisters to answer the spiritual thirst of people here and around the world.

All: Grant them faith that they may join us in singing praise to You, the rock of our salvation.

Leader: Many of the people we see each day are lonely strangers, gracious Lord; but their hopes and fears are known to You.

All: Increase our faith, Lord Jesus, that we may reach out to them with the news of Your resurrection and the Kingdom You so graciously offer to all. Guide the Church wherever people gather around Your Word for nourishment and strength.

Leader: Shower Your blessings, O Holy Spirit, on all whose vocations work for the common good—those who till the soil and tend flocks; those who prepare and distribute food, clothing, and shelter; those who maintain peace at home and abroad; those who are first to respond in emergencies; and those who treat illnesses of all sorts.

All: Guide them, Lord of all, to use the gifts You have given them, so that praise may resound to You, the Lord, our Maker.

Leader: Where people are forgotten, unjustly imprisoned, or oppressed in any way, O God, surround them with caring people intent on meeting their physical and spiritual needs.

All: Use us to serve You and love them according to Your gracious plans for us all.

Leader: Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen.

* Lord's Prayer

**All: 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**

* Benediction

Leader: 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.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful *LSB 554*



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!
4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,
5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -
For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -
May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our

ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:
 self in - flame To seek You more and more!
 lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!

Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

Postlude in D H. Smart

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Guest Pastor:	Rev. Robert Flohrs
Organist:	Jean Spyksma
Choir Director:	Ron Sautter
Audio Engineer:	Aaron Bland

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