

**Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool**  
**November 26, 2023**  
**Christ the King Sunday**  
**Rev. Mark Selbo**

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Member of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
(*ELCA* – [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))



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**All Are Welcome – All the Time!**

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship. If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus. His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS

*By Kathy Davis, who will provide updated Prayers of Intercession*

## INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

*– Silence for reflection –*

*Most merciful God,*

**we confess that we have wandered far from you:**

**we have not trusted your promises,**

**we have ignored your prophets in our own day,**

**we have squandered our inheritance of grace,**

**we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

**Have mercy on us!**

**Forgive us and turn us again to you.**

**Teach us to follow in your ways,**

**assure us again of your love,**

**and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In + Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

## SONG: Crown Him with Many Crowns, ELW #855

*(Printed in Hymnal and on bulletin insert)*

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;

Hark, how the heavenly 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 burning eyes at mysteries so bright.

*– continued –*

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 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 years, the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For though has died for me;  
Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and  
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

## **READING – Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

*Ezekiel shares a prophesy where the Lord says he will be Shepherd of Israel...*

“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.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 95:1-7a**

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;

**let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.**

Let us come before him with thanksgiving

**and extol him with music and song.**

For the Lord is the great God,

**the great King above all gods.**

In his hand are the depths of the earth,

**and the mountain peaks belong to him.**

The sea is his, for he made it,

**and his hands formed the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down in worship,

**let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;**

for he is our God

**and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.**

## **READING – Ephesians 1:15-23**

*(Paul writes to the people in Ephesus:)* For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

– Please stand as you are able –

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172**

Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.  
Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

## **THE GOSPEL – Matthew 25:31-46**

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to You, O Lord.*

(Jesus said:) “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.”

*The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.*

# SERMON – “The Other Wise Man”

## SONG: Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service, ELW #712

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)*

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need;  
Who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
We, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;  
Consecrating to your purpose every gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

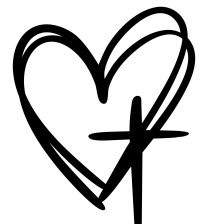
As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid and peace we give;  
That your servants, Lord, in freedom, may your mercy know and live.

## 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** *(on separate sheet)*  
*Merciful God... Receive our prayer.*



## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.*  
– Please share a socially distanced sign of peace or greeting –

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**



## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION** *(not printed/Presider's book on altar)*

### **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.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT**

**All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.** You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to select a single-serving Communion kit from the tray, or to receive a blessing. Then return to your seat via the side aisle to open the kit and partake in Communion. An usher will offer a basket to collect the container. *For those worshipping at home, please consider joining in Holy Communion by taking a bit of bread or cracker and a sip of wine or juice.*  
**All are welcome.**

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

#### **BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



## **SONG: Now Thank We All Our God, ELW #840**

*(Printed in Hymnal and on bulletin insert)*

Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mother's arms, has blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in high-test heaven,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

## **DISMISSAL**

*Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Decorate Church for Christmas Today!** – After worship, we'll put up the tree, hang some wreaths, and gussy up. We can do it quick! Thanks for any help!
- **Saturday with St. Nick** – Sat, Dec. 2 from 10a to noon – songs, craft, snacks and a chance to visit with Santa. Bring your whole family. Free – our gift to the community.
- **Joy Bags for Sue's Pantry Kids** – This year's list includes many more children (nearly 50). Can we do it? We hate to leave anyone out. The PreSchool families are planning to do the youngest 25 children, so we are hoping to handle the teenagers. The gift bags are simple with values of approximately \$25 or \$30 with a few things for each child. For younger teens, suggestions include hats, mittens/gloves, sweater/sweatshirt, toy/game or candy. For our older teens ideas include gloves, fun socks, gift card, candy, lotion, chapstick, ear buds/charging cord, card game, journal or pens. But do what you feel and what you find! Please pray on how we might make this happen. Holly will have specifics so you can shop for a specific child (age/gender/personality), or donate cash and Holly and her elves will put things together. Email [HollySJ@earthlink.net](mailto:HollySJ@earthlink.net) for details. Please prayerfully consider so we can brighten the holidays just a bit. Please provide money or Joy Bags prior to December 13. Thank you!
- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you to all who contributed to our first delivery to Chicago. We continue to collect: Blankets/sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, hand warmers, feminine products, Mariano's gift cards (store closest to camp).
- **Sanctuary Support** – Our first batch of sleeping mats, small suitcases and OTC medicines were delivered to asylum seekers living in Police Stations and community centers in Chicago, a Sanctuary City. This collection continues as need does not end.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Looking for small sizes of flour, cooking oil, sugar. Also anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- **Love INC** – Always looking for housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more about this amazing organization? Talk with Natalie.
- **COOL Ministries** – We continue to support the COOL pantry in Waukegan as well as Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway.
- **BSA Troop 273** – Thank you to all who support our partner Scouts as they have supported us – especially with yard work! Check with Scouts to see if you can still purchase popcorn or Christmas wreaths and garland.
- **Looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273!** Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa ([tcalabrese98@gmail.com](mailto:tcalabrese98@gmail.com)).

## CALENDAR:

- Christmas Service will be held on Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 a.m., only, this year.
- Saturday with St Nick - Dec 2
- Advent begins Dec 3