

MY KINGDOM
IS NOT FROM
THIS WORLD

JOHN 18:36

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

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November 23 & 24, 2024 Christ the King

Preparing to Hear Today's Readings

Lately, many churches have substituted the phrase “Reign of Christ” with “Christ the **King**.” Kings can bring to mind elevated status and a head of state who has absolute and even ruthless power over his people. But the term “The Reign of God” has always been a central focus of the worship of God’s people. From the time of the promise to David of an eternal dynasty, the vision of the Reign of God has been the hope of God’s people. The challenge has always been understanding God’s Reign as a different order from human political power systems.

In today’s gospel, in the encounter between Jesus and Pilate, the difference between human rulership and God’s Reign is starkly shown, as Jesus explains that he claims no human kingship, but rather he is the king of a realm that is not of this world. It is a kingdom of truth and justice.

The challenge of this week’s celebration is to avoid triumphalism. Rather, we are to recognize God’s Reign in acts of compassion and justice, in service and sacrifice, and in the challenge to political systems to give up an obsession with war and conquest. to build a world of peace and love for all.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Preservice Music

Welcome

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives our sin, heals every illness, saves us from death,
enfolds us with tender care and crowns us with steadfast love.

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.

Holy and gracious God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed.
We have lived only for the present,
often without regard for future generations.**

**We have placed our confidence
in political parties and personalities,
rather than in your promised reign of justice and peace.
Have mercy on us, forgive our sins,
and bring us to the fullness of life in your kingdom.**

God calls us to seek good and to turn away from evil.
To those who believe in Jesus Christ,
God grants the forgiveness of sin,
strength in weakness, and the promise of eternal life.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

vs. 1-4 **No. 855**

Greeting

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.

Christ the King Dialogue

Behold, the King comes.

O come, let us worship and bow before him.

Rejoice with full measure, for Christ is your King.

Blessing and honor and glory be given to him.

By his blood, Christ our King, has delivered us from sin and death.

He shepherds his people, leading, feeding, healing, finding and uniting his own.

Therefore, God the Father has highly exalted him:

and bestowed on him the name which is above every name;

that at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow:

and every tongue confess him who is the King of glory.

Behold, the King comes. Alleluia!

O come, let us worship and sing his praise. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn of Praise “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

vs. 5 **No. 855**

**Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail
throughout eternity.**

Prayer of the Day

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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.

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

- ¹Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
- ²**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**
- ³For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
- ⁴**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**
- ⁵The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
- ⁶**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**
- ^{7a}For the LORD is our God,
**and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep of God's hand.**

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.

^{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.

vs. 1 **Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

vs. 5 **Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our king;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.**

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 John.

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?"

³⁶Jesus 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."

³⁷Pilate 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: "Left-handed Power"

Hymn of the Day "Before You, Lord, We Bow"

Apostles' Creed

Together with the whole church,
we confess the faith into which we were baptized.

**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

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Holy God, from Christ we receive our call to feed, to clothe, and to welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries – especially as they respond to the desperate needs of those in Gaza. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Nourish parched lands and bring relief to flooded places. Protect wildlife habitats and endangered species, so that the chorus of creation's praise resounds with joy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making especially those leaders who have responsibility for the lives of the innocents in Gaza and in Ukraine. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated. Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Remind us of your enduring love in all seasons. Guide the planning efforts of worship leaders and volunteers who usher our congregation into a meaningful Advent. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us especially those we name in our hearts. Unite us with them as one body of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Children's Message (Sunday)

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering Song "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

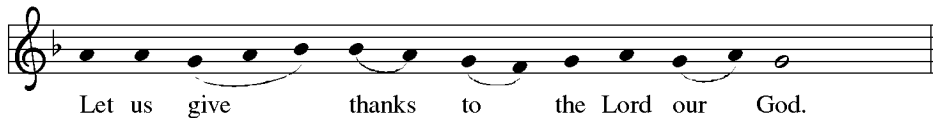
No. 693

Offering Prayer

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ;
who, enthroned forever at your right hand,
intercedes for us as our great high priest.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter
and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for you are the King of the Universe
and you reign with justice and righteousness.
You created all things in heaven and on earth,
and through your holy prophets in ages past
you promised to save us from enemy hands
and free us from corrupt and negligent rulers.

Out of your deepest mercy
you have come to us in fullness in Jesus the Christ,
your anointed One who rules wisely,
who shepherds your people
and under whose direction your kingdom comes.

Our Lord's Words of Institution

Though he is your visible image,
he was crucified as a criminal.
You raised him as the firstborn from the dead,
and through him you are reconciling all things to yourself.
And so, to you, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church,
now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray:

**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 food of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

“Lamb of God” (Setting Three, ELW pg.146)

Special Music “Oceans(Sprit Lead Me)” performed by Hillsong Worship

Prayer after Communion

Sovereign God,
in this meal you give us a foretaste of the great feast to come.
Keep us faithful to you, that we, with all your saints,
may at length celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Hymn “Lift High the Cross”

No. 660

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the presence of Jesus for others.
Thanks be to God.

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Readers/Communion Assistants

Nov 23 Marsha Pauley
Nov 24 Carter & Laura Bower
Nov 30 ****HELP WANTED****
Dec 1 Ray Leverknight
Dec 7 ****HELP WANTED****
Dec 8 Jamie McMullen
Dec 14 ****HELP WANTED****
Dec 15 ****HELP WANTED****

Ushers

Nov 23 Tim & Kerri Moyer
Nov 24 Mayket Family
Nov 30 Tim & Kerri Moyer
Dec 1 Raho Family
Dec 7 ****HELP WANTED****
Dec 8 ****HELP WANTED****
Dec 14 Patt Bittner & Linda Barnhart
Dec 15 Mayket family & Gayle Swartz

Mt. Calvary will be volunteering at the **Family Kitchen** on **Sunday, December 1st** from 11-1. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office.

During **all November**, our **Sunday School children** will be collecting money and/or non-perishable food items for local food pantries. They will also be collecting monetary donations at the front door after worship on **every Sunday**. A bin is in the narthex for food donations.

We will be holding a **Salvation Army Red Kettle Collection** on **Saturday, December 14th** from 8:00 - 2:00 at Market Basket. A volunteer sign-up sheet is in the narthex to pick your available time slot.



POINTSETTIA

WORLD HUNGER

ORDER FORM DUE ****DECEMBER 1****

POINTSETTIAS

IN HONOR OF _____ HOW MANY _____

IN MEMORY OF _____ HOW MANY _____

WORLD HUNGER

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF 6" POINTSETTIA _____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DONATION FOR WORLD HUNGER = \$ _____