

Welcome to Worship



Sunday, November 21, 2021 – Christ the King

Introduction

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people 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.

* = Please stand

We Are Gathered for Worship

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

Welcome / Centering Prayer

Pastor: Lord God, the source of all good things, we pause in your presence and hold our day before you. Still us, calm us, guide us as we enter this day. **All: Amen.**

Prelude

“God So Loved the World”

* Call to Worship (*inspired Psalm 93*)

Asst: The Lord is king! He is robed in majesty.

All: Indeed, the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

Asst: The world is firmly established. It cannot be shaken.

All: Your throne, O Lord, has been established from time immemorial.

Asst: You yourself are from the everlasting past.

All: The mighty oceans have roared, O Lord.

**The mighty oceans roar like thunder;
the mighty oceans roar as they pound the shore.**

Asst: But mightier than the violent raging of the seas,
mightier than the breakers on the shore--
the Lord above is mightier than these!

All: Your royal decrees cannot be changed.

**The nature of your reign, O Lord,
is holiness forever.**

* Confession and Forgiveness

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

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

All: Amen.

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

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Pastor: Have mercy on us, O God,

All: We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor. We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to

**love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice.
Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

Pastor: God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for † Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God. **All: Amen.**

***Opening Hymn**

“Lead On, O King Eternal!”

ELW 805

**Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.**

**Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy the heav'nly kingdom comes.**

**Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!**

***Prayer of the Day**

Asst: Let us pray, Almighty and ever-living God,

All: 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.

***Sharing of the Peace**

Asst: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

We Hear and Respond to God's Word

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

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.

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

^{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.

Gospel: John 18:33-37

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.”

Children’s Chat / Message

Pastor Bill Ottum

People who walk in darkness have sought a light in the heart of the darkest night.
Just when we thought all would be lost, we were drawn to the light of God.

Refrain: Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight to be drawn to the light of God.

How can we tell a heaven from hell if ev'ryone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels, and we're drawn to the light of God. *Refrain*

Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the one who is shining bright,
bids us to come! Life has begun when we're drawn to the light of God. *Refrain*

***Affirmation Of Faith – Apostles’ Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and was born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 The People

Asst: Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray
for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

(A brief silence.)

Asst: God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for preachers,
missionaries, evangelists, and teachers who carry your forgiveness and love to the
world. Fill their words and actions with compassion and kindness so that your truth
will shine. God, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

Asst: God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them. God, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

Asst: God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all. God, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

Asst: God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the well-being of others, especially ministries in our community (local social ministries or agencies may be named). Renew them in their work. God, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

Asst: God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for the friends of our congregation who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering (especially). Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body of Christ. God, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Let us now share other concerns on our hearts and minds ... spoken, or in silence.

(Time is taken for prayers to be offered ...)

Pastor: God, you sent your Son Jesus to be our beginning and our ending. We give thanks for those whose lives have given us a glimpse of Jesus' reign of justice and peace. Empower us to join their witness. God, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **All: Amen.**

Offering *We join millions of Christians all over the world in joyfully responding to God's goodness through the giving of our financial resources. Offering plates are near the communion table, or offerings may be mailed to: River of Life, PO Box 670470, Chugiak, AK, 99567.*

Prayer of Blessing

Asst: Let us pray. Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

We Come to the Lord's Table

***The Great Thanksgiving / Holy Communion**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

* = Please stand

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

***Words of Institution** *(In the night in which he was betrayed ...)*

Pastor: Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Ever living God, we offer ourselves to you in praise and thanksgiving, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Pastor: Let us pray the prayer our Lord taught to his disciples:

***The 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.**

Pastor: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

Distribution: *All who believe in Jesus as their risen Lord and Savior are invited to His Table. The clear liquid is grape juice, the red is wine. Take the bread and wine and consume them after leaving the table.*

Communion Blessing and Prayer

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **All: Amen.**

Pastor: Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet.

All: Amen.

We Are Sent Out to Serve

Congregation Life / Announcements

*Benediction / Blessing

Pastor: God, the beginning and the end, who has written your name in the book of life, ✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace from this time forth and forevermore.

All: Amen.

* Sending Hymn

“Jesus Shall Reign”

ELW 434

**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.**

**To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise with ev'ry morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of ev'ry tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.**

**Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.**

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

* Our Purpose Statement

**We are a community of faith, called to *Glorify God...*
Grow in faith and love, and
Go into the world with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.**

*Sending

Asst: Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Something Good is Going to Happen to You”

* = Please stand