November 22, 2026
Christ the King



Together we are:

~Called to Worship~
~Committed to Serve~
~Connected in Faith~

Worship with us Sunday mornings at 8:00 & 9:30

St. John Lutheran Church
148 S Chestnut St
Belle Plaine MN 56011

Church office: 952-873-6492
Office hours: 9:00am - 3:00pm M-Th
9:00am - 12:00pm Fri
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Everyone is welcome to Worship

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Welcome and Announcements
Opening Hymn "Crown Him With Many Crowns" ELW 855

Confession and Forgiveness
In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

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

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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.

Kyrie (setting 5, WOV #28)
Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy
Christe eleison, Christ have mercy
Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy

Prayer of the day
Let us pray.
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.

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a
We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)
1 Come, 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.
3 For 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.
5 The 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.

Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,
and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my
prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you
a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes
of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has
called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and
what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to
the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he
raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,
21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name
that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all
things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,
23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Gospel Acclamation (setting 5 WOV #31):

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all
the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations
will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a
shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right
hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand,
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was
thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed
me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I
was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord,
when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you
something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed
you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in

prison and visited you?' [40] And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' [41] Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, [42] for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44] Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' [45] Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon
Hymn of the Day "Beautiful Savior"
Apostles Creed
Sharing of the peace

Offering Hymn "Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven" ELW 865

Prayer:
Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen

Communion Prayer
Words of Institution

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.

Hymns During Distribution

ELW 481 – “Come to the Table”
ELW 694 – “Sing to the Lord of Harvest”
ELW 876 - “Let the Whole Creation Cry”

Post Communion Blessing
Prayers of Intercession
Benediction

Closing Hymn “Take My Life That I May Be” ELW 583