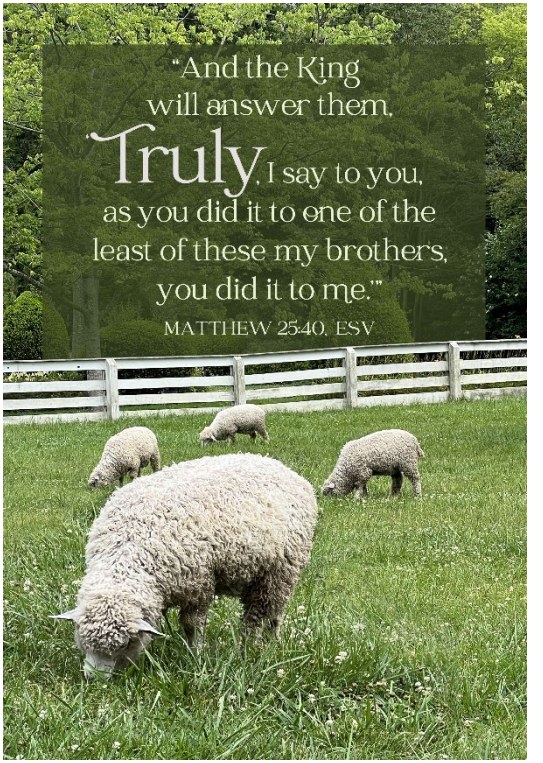
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

November 22, 2026

9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion



"Be and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"

Grace Lutheran Church
111 Lutheran Drive, P.O. Box 86, Eaton, Ohio 45320
937.456.6258
Email: GraceEaton111@gmail.com
Website: www.gracelutheranofeaton.com
Pastor Dwight Hanson

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Please take a moment to fill out the "Attendance & Communion" Registration Cards (located in the pew racks). Pass your card to the end of your pew.

P - Presiding Minister; A - Assisting minister; **C - Congregation;**
* - Please Stand
LBW - Green Hymnal ***WOV - Blue Hymnal***

Please silence electronic devices.

PRELUDE: ***"Rejoice the Lord is King"*** ***(arr. Payne)***

***WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION:**

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,
C we confess that we are in bondage 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

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

C Amen

***THE SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE**

P The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C And also with you.

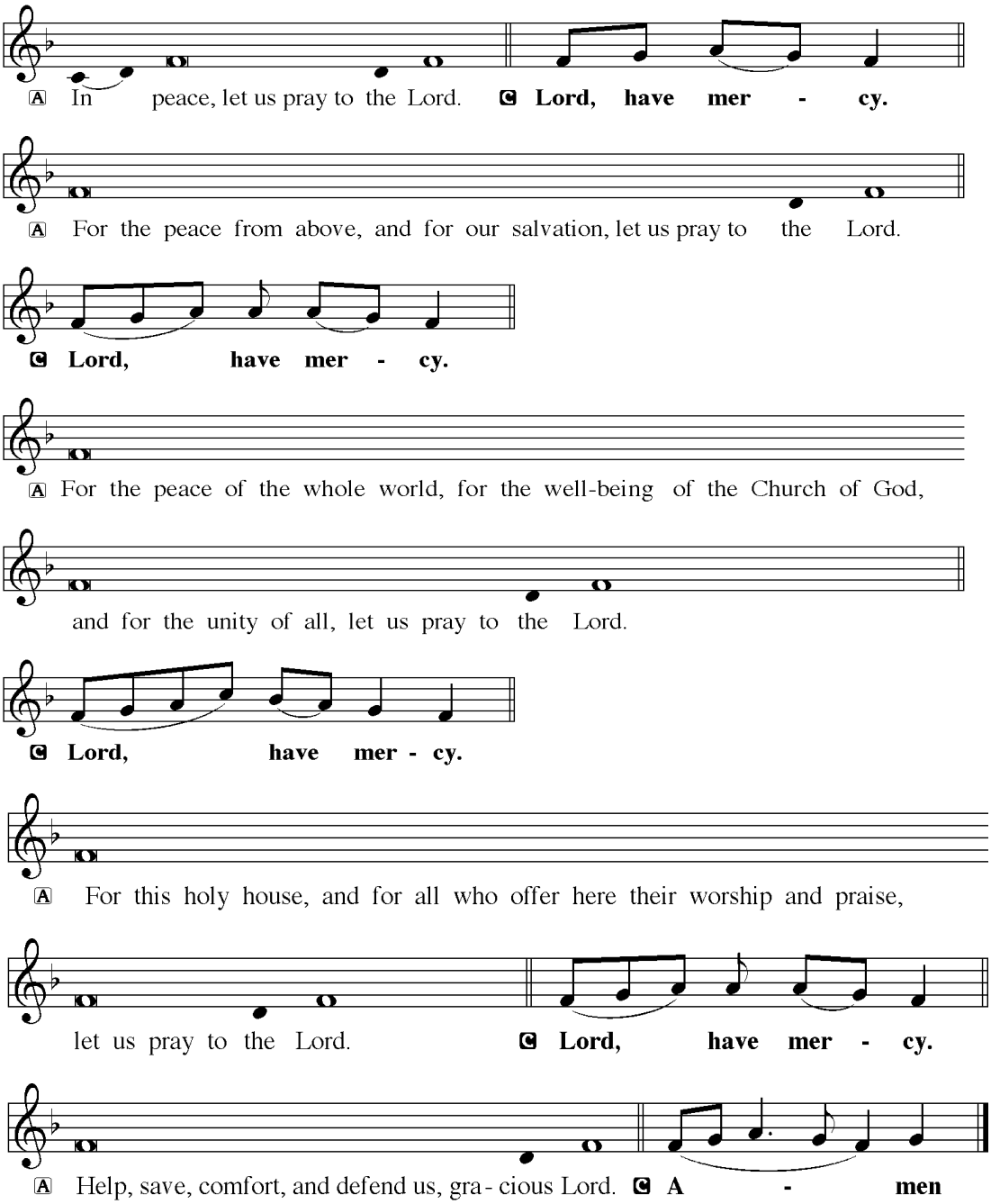
GATHERING HYMN:** ***"Jesus Shall Reign" (LBW 530; vs. 1, 4-5)

***GREETING:**

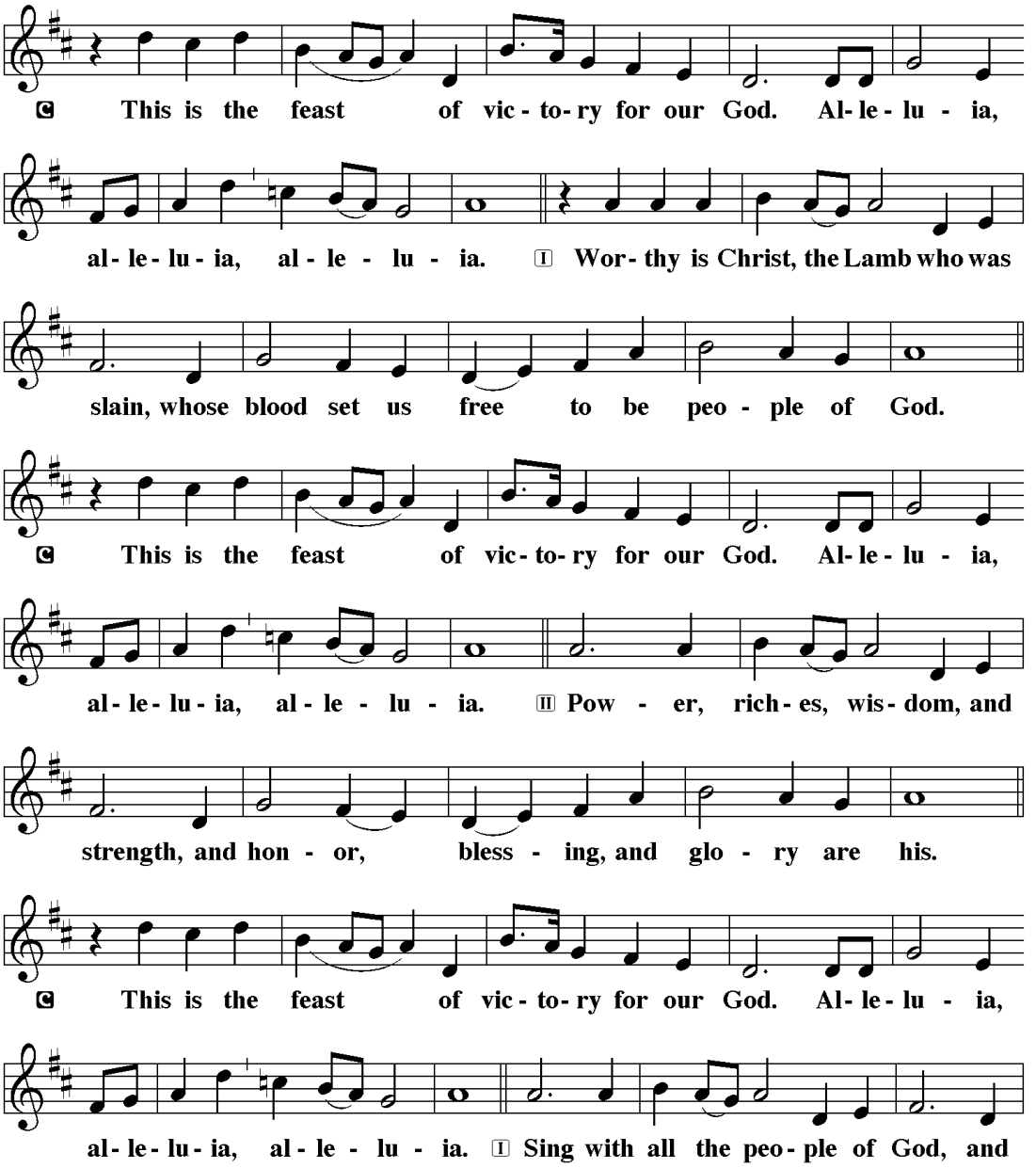
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

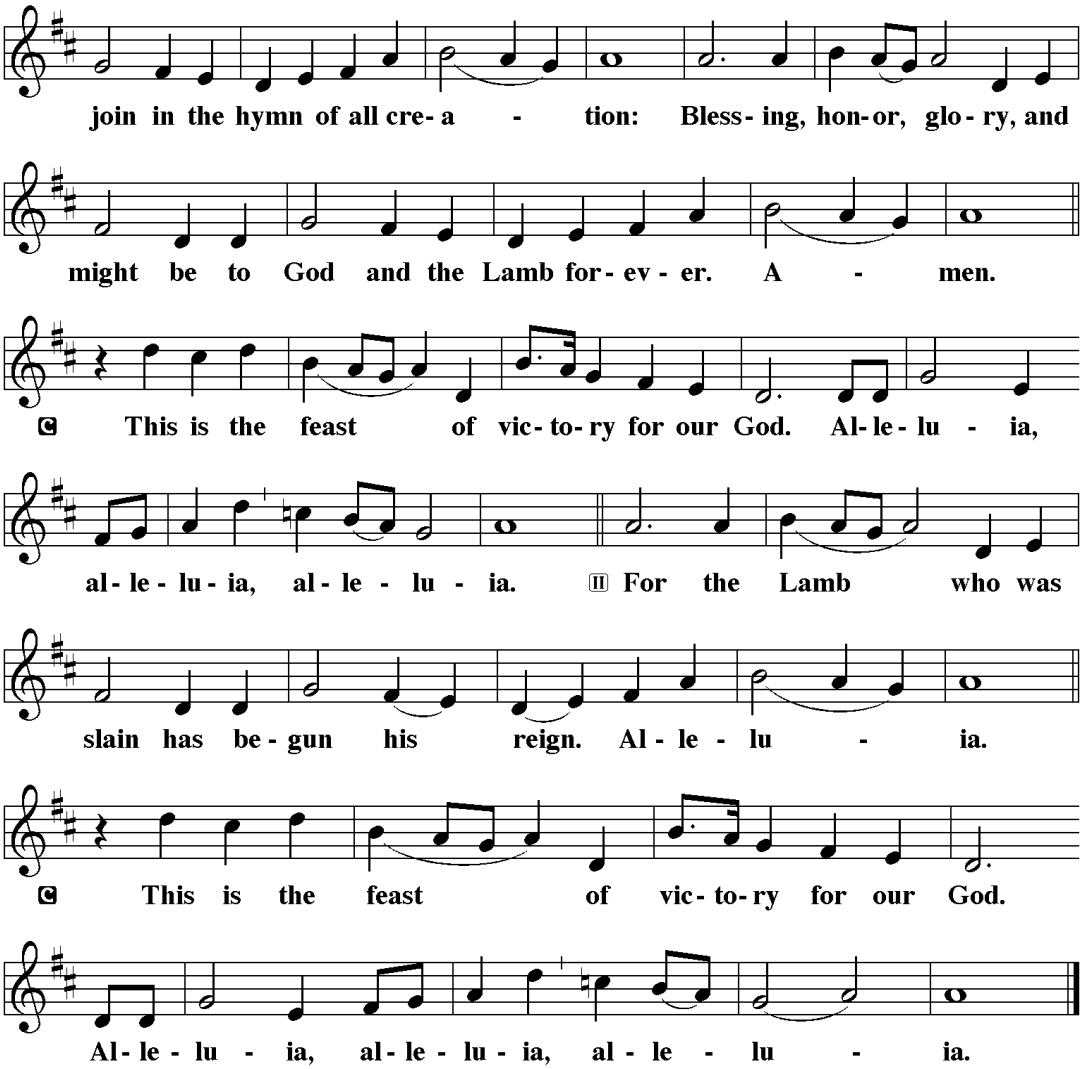
C And also with you.

***KYRIE** (LBW Setting 1, pg. 57):

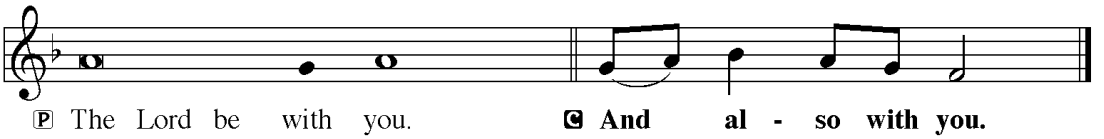


***HYMN OF PRAISE** (LBW pgs. 60-61):Women sing Part [I] and Men sing [II]




join in the hymn of all cre- a - tion: Bless- ing, hon- or, glo- ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for- ev- er. A - men.
℣ This is the feast of vic- to- ry for our God. Al- le- lu - ia,
al- le- lu- ia, al- le - lu - ia. ℣ For the Lamb who was
slain has be- gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
℣ This is the feast of vic- to- ry for our God.
Al- le - lu - ia, al- le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***SALUTATION:**



***PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

P Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

C who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A A reading from Ezekiel:

11"For thus says the LORD God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and
will seek them out. 12As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his
sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue
them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick
darkness. 13And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the
countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the
mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country.
14I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall
be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich
pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. 15I myself will be the shepherd
of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the LORD God. 16I
will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured,
and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will
feed them in justice.

20"Therefore, thus says the LORD God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge
between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21Because you push with side and

shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, 22I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

A The Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 95:1-7a

A 1Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
C 2Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
A 3For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
C 4In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.
A 5The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.
C 6Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the LORD our Maker.
A 7aFor he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

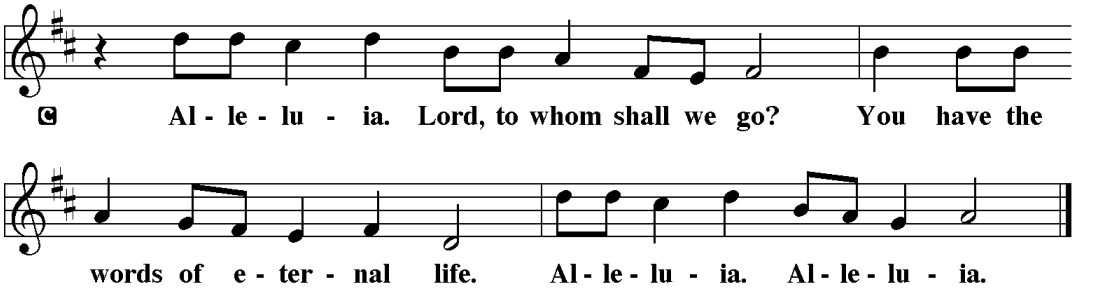
A A reading from First Corinthians:

20But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom

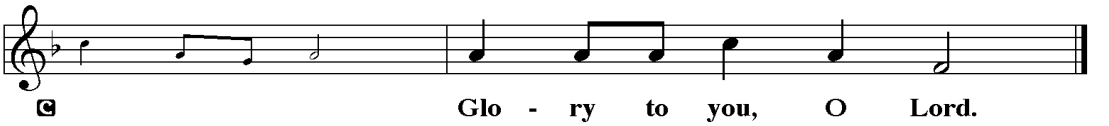
to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.
25For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26The last
enemy to be destroyed is death. 27For "God has put all things in subjection under
his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is
excepted who put all things in subjection under him. 28When all things are
subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all
things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

A The Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

***VERSE** (LBW, pgs. 62-63)**:**



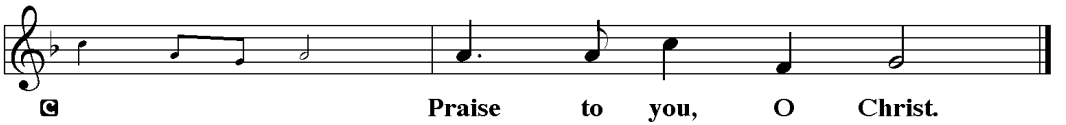
***GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46**
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



31{Jesus said to the disciples,} "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all
the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32Before him will be
gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a
shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33And he will place the sheep on his
right, but the goats on the left. 34Then the King will say to those on his right,
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world. 35For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was

thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' 41Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' 45Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P The Gospel of the Lord.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON: Pastor Dwight Hanson – <u>Last and Lasting Things</u>
(Please Find Sermon at the end of this bulletin)

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Lead On, O King Eternal" (LBW 495)

***THE NICENE CREED:**

C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and Glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

A Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, whose Kingdom is eternal and whose will is good, transform our hearts and minds by the light of the true King, our Lord Jesus. Inspire us to be Christ-centered, to seek him

and his blessings all our days. Free us from self-concern, and fill us with gratitude. Move the hearts of all people to recognize the ultimate truth about Jesus, for the sake of humble, faithful service in a world of need. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

A With thankful hearts we acknowledge the many harvests you provide—home, community, and church, fields and orchards, friends, neighbors, and brothers and sisters in Christ. Inspire all people to bow in thankfulness. Quiet our minds and open our hearts. Watch over all who travel, that neighborliness and goodwill would spread. And may the many gatherings be blessed. Above all, gather in the spiritual harvest that will be presented before Christ's everlasting throne. Until then, we continue to pray for the needs of the world. For all the war-torn, the grief-stricken, and the exhausted. For government officials at each level, that they would be guided by your wisdom for the good of all. And we ask for your protection to be over all who serve honorably in harm's way, and their families. Especially we lift up those are far from home during the holiday season. Lord, in your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

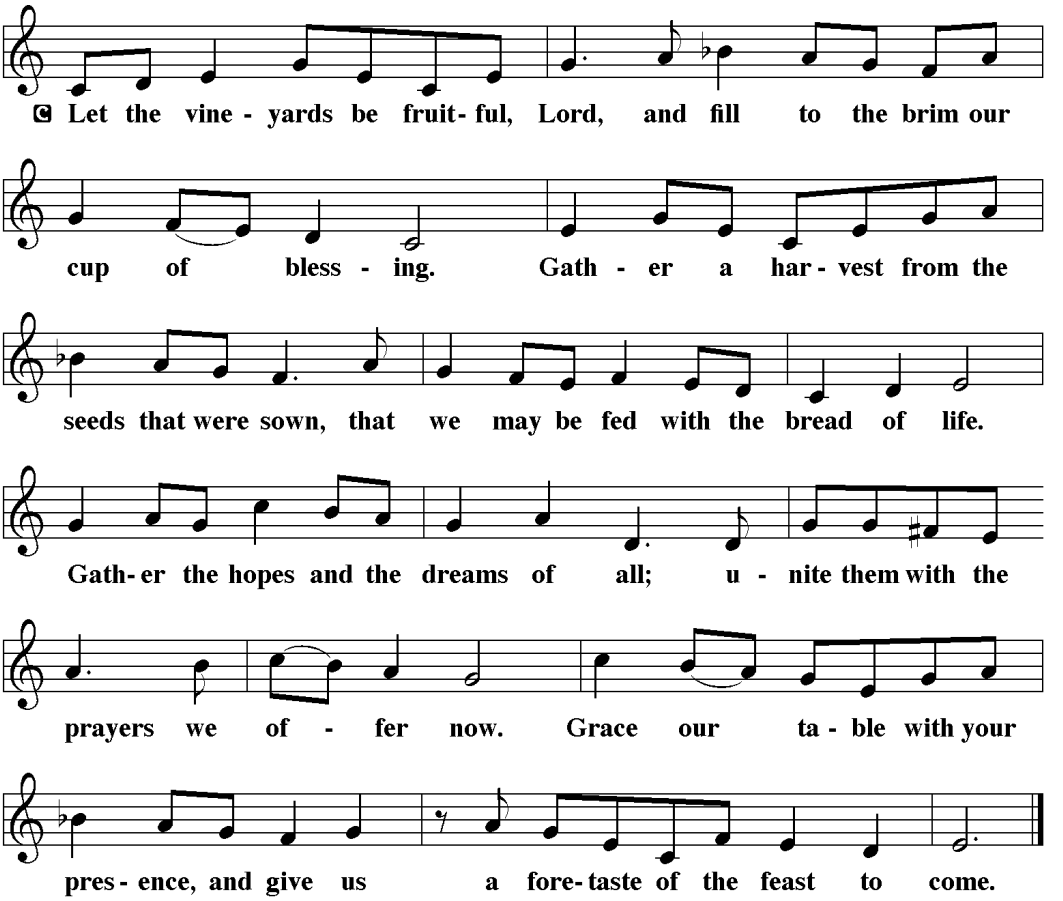
A We pray for all who need healing in any way: *Glenn Childers, Kelly Coffman, Josh & Jaime Cummins & family, Jim Courtney, Terry Good, Amy & Bryan Jackson, Patty Lipps, Elizabeth & Emily McDade, Dave Noll, Gary Pemberton, Sr, Barbara Perry, Beverly Proeschel, Tom Schamel, LeRoy Schatzle, Iva-Laura Sherry, Jon Tucker*, and others whom we name in our hearts at this time (pause for silent prayer). Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,

C **Trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OFFERING

ANTHEM: ***"Creation Sings"*** ***(Choir)***

***OFFERTORY** (LBW, pg. 66) **Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful**



***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

***LORD'S PRAYER:**

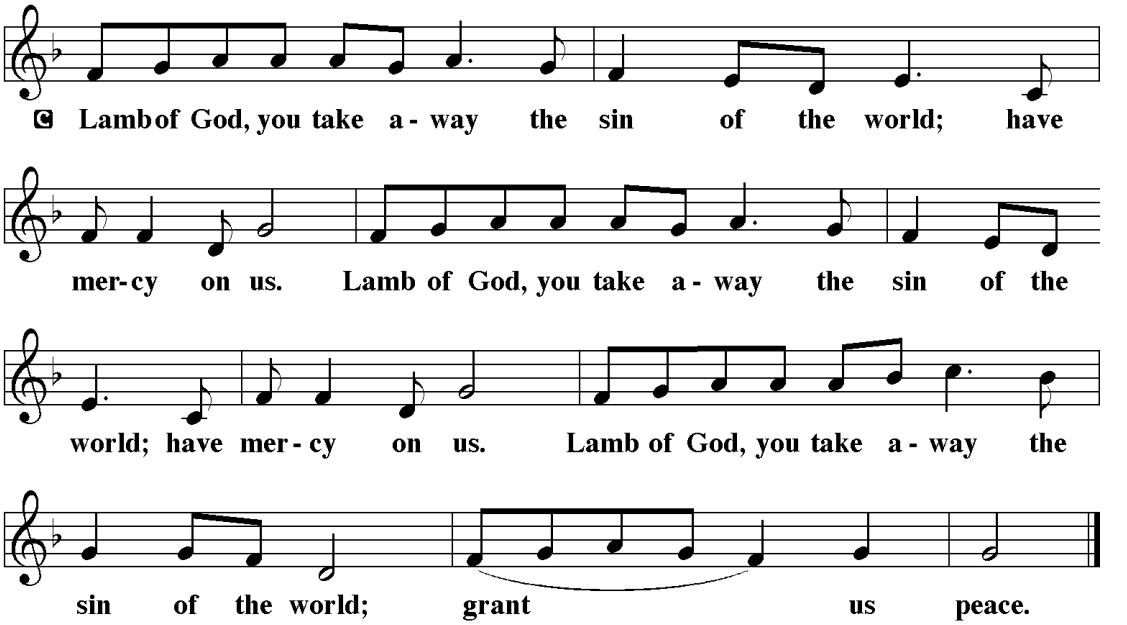
C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION & BLESSING OF CHILDREN

In Holy Communion our Lord Jesus graciously invites those who have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to repent of all that separates us from God, and to receive his sacred and real presence for the forgiveness of sins. In addition to wine, grape juice is also offered. Children who do not yet receive Communion may receive a blessing.

Holy Communion will be received at the communion rail.

COMMUNION HYMNS (LBW, pg. 72) **"Lamb of God"**



"Soul Adorn Yourself with Gladness" (LBW 224)

"Built on a Rock" (LBW 365)

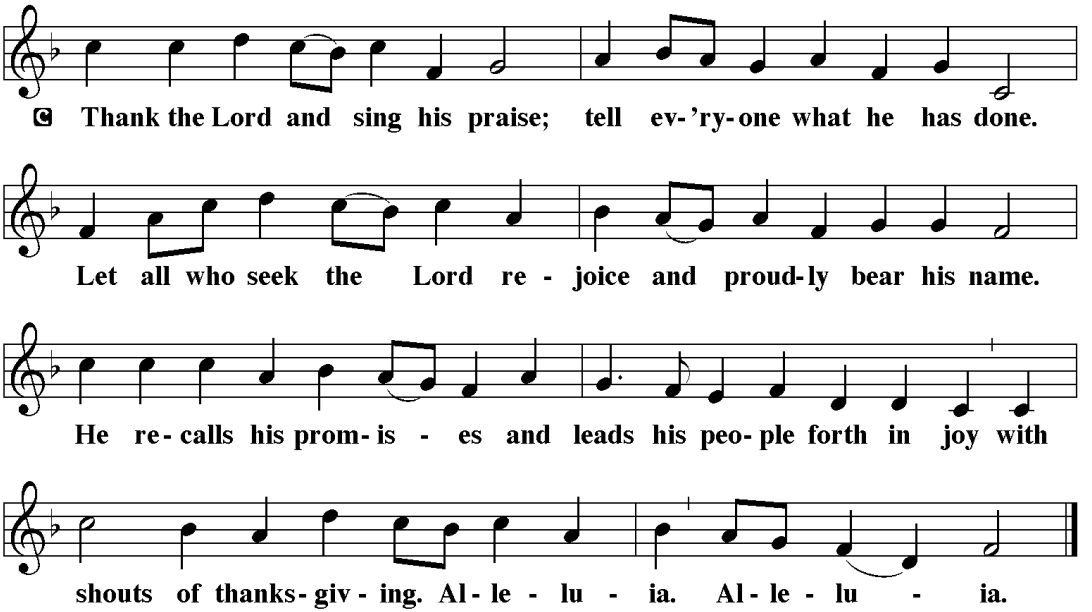
"Lord, Keep Is Steadfast in Your Word" (LBW 230)

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING:**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

***POST-COMMUNON CANTICLE** (LBW pg. 72):



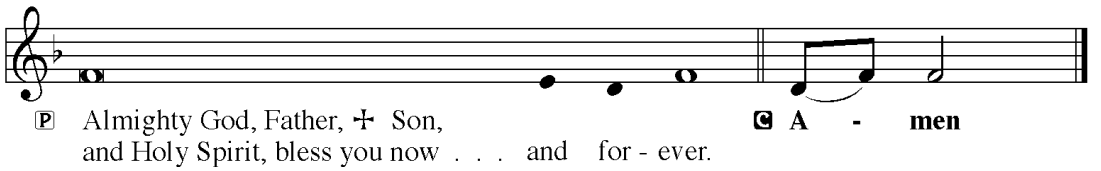
***PRAYER:**

P Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food;

C through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SENDING

***BLESSING:**



SENDING HYMN:** ***"Crown Him with Many Crowns" vs. 1,4,6 (LBW 170)

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly 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.

4 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.

6 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.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903

***DISMISSAL:**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Flowers on the Altar this Morning are given to the glory of God by:

The Shetters in honor and in remembrance of our family's November Birthdays.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES -- FELLOWSHIP / EDUCATION

On Sundays

- **After Worship -- Refreshments** for all in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Youth Sunday School classes** meet after worship in the Music Room (Education wing). Bring a friend! Parents/grandparents are always welcome. No Sunday School (Thanksgiving weekend)
- **Adult Education** – After refreshments in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Sunday S'mores @ 6:00 p.m.** Every other week – Middle School & High School-aged Youth. Friends are welcome. Tina Ebright is the moderator, and she can be reached @ 937-472-5663

During the Week

- **Phoebe Women's Bible Study** 2nd Monday of each month – 6:30 p.m. "Discerning the Voice of God". Contact Kelly Mt. Castle (937-336-1223 or Kelly.mtcastle@gmail.com.
- **Moms Group** the 2nd Tues. of each month – 5:30 p.m. Contact: Veronica Forney 1-910-581-8646.
- **Wednesday Morning Prayer & Bible Study –** 9:00 a.m.
- **Graceful Fiber Guild** The 3rd Thursday of each month – 2:00-4:00 p.m. Bring a craft or just come to learn a new one
- **Family Game Night** – As announced.

These opportunities are open to all. Bring a friend



ADVENT 2026 WEDNESDAYS – DEC. 2, 9 & 16

- Soup Supper at 6:00 PM
- Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM
- Theme: Mary's Song of Praise



It's time to make a Joyful Noise on Christmas Eve!
If you are interested in playing a musical instrument with the ***hymns throughout the Christmas Eve service*** or in ***participating with the pre-service music***, please contact Janet Burkett by **Nov. 29th** at church or By phone: 937-417-7664.
Also, if you would like to sing with the choir throughout the Advent/Christmas season, contact Carol Matevia by **Nov. 29th** at 937-733-6908, or at church.



Grace's Homestyle Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday November 26th
We're hosting a Homestyle Dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

Special Invitation to those without family nearby or unable to prepare a meal. ***We'll*** cook the turkey; please bring a special side dish or dessert that reminds you of Thanksgivings past.

We also need help in the kitchen, set-up/clean-up, etc. Cooking starts early; dinner is at 1:00 p.m.
Friends and **family** are welcome—we're all family at Grace!
(Stopping in just to say "HI" is welcome too.)

A **Sign-up Sheet** is in the **Narthex**.

Come early for activities and the Thanksgiving Day Parades on TV.
Celebrate with your ***Grace Family!***



Decorating the Church for Christmas

10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 28th
We will pull out all the decorations & decorate inside and outside the church. We need all the help you can share.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday -Friday: 10—1, 2—5

TODAY ***November 22, 2026—Christ the King Sunday***
9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Fellowship & Sunday School for all ages
6:30 p.m. Sunday S'mores

Monday ***November 23***
Pastor's Day Off
9:45 a.m. "Choose to Lose"
4:15 p.m. Office closing early

Tuesday ***November 24***
10:00 a.m. Janice Pearce in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday November 25
NO Bible Study
12:30 p.m. Bulletin & Grace Herald Production
NO Confirmation Class
NO Choir

Thursday November 26 OFFICE CLOSED - THANKSGIVING
8:00 a.m. Preparation of Turkey
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Begins
1:00 p.m. 3rd Annual Grace Family Thanksgiving Dinner (FH/Kitchen)
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting (FH/Shelter)

Friday ***November 27 – OFFICE CLOSED***

Saturday ***November 28***
10:00 a.m. Decorating the Church

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Sun. 11/29— Worship w/HC/Healing prayers, Fellowship & Adult Ed., No Youth Sunday School
Mon. 11/30—Pastor off, Choose to Lose
Tues. 12/1—Worship Committee Meeting
Wed. 12/2 –Bible Study, Confirmation, Choir, Soup Supper, Advent Worship
Thurs. 12/3 – AA Meeting
Fri. 12/4 –Bulletin Production
Sat. 12/5-Men of Grace @ Bob Evans

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Altar Guild for November: Wanda Winter, Carol Perry
Altar Guild for December: Carol Perry, Carol Matevia
Offering Counter for November: Karen Schaeff
Offering Counter for December: 12/2 & 6 – Janice Barnes;
12/9 & 13 – Wanda Winter; 12/16 & 20 – Carol Perry;
12/24 & 27 – Jane Coggin

Sunday, November 22, Pentecost 26
9:30 a.m.

Greeter:	Dean Shetter
Usher:	Darryl Leyes
Lector:	Carol Perry
Acolyte:	Sophia Steiner

Sunday, November 29 – Advent 1
9:30 a.m.

Greeter:	**SUBSTITUTE/S NEEDED**
Usher:	**SUBSTITUTE/S NEEDED**
Lector:	Kelly Coffman
Communion:	Wanda Winter Tiffany Ingram, Janice Barnes
Acolyte:	Bechor Bischoff

Wednesday, December 2 – Midweek Advent 1
7:00 p.m.

Greeters:	Scott & Nancy Parkinson
Usher:	Scott & Nancy Parkinson
Lector:	Scott Parkinson

Sunday, December 6 – Advent 2
9:30 a.m.

Greeter:	John & Janice Barnes
Usher:	John Barnes
Lector:	Patty Barnes
Communion:	John Kiracofe, Debbie McKinney
Acolyte:	Sophia Steiner

Attendance & Stewardship ($4,187 needed wkly)

11/15/2026	86	$4,449.00

Grace Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund: The purpose of this fund is to extend the ministry of Grace Lutheran Church, apart from the general operation of the congregation. To learn more about our Mission Endowment Fund, please contact the church office and we'll give your question to the appropriate person.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please help us by giving an update on the back of the "Attendance & Communion Registration" form. Names will appear for 4 weeks unless we are notified otherwise.

URGENT PRAYER LIST: **FOR HEALING: (In Alphabetical Order)**

- ***Glenn Childers:*** (Recovering from skin cancer surgery on 11/18)
- ***Kelly Coffman***: (Scheduled for heart ablation – Dec. 14)
- ***Josh & Jaime Cummins & family:*** (Friends of Karen Schaeff – Asking for prayers of strength & comfort)
- ***Jim Courtney:*** (A young father battling Stage 4 melanoma)
- ***Terry Good:*** (Now at home recovering from a fall)
- ***Amy & Bryan Jackson:*** (for comfort and healing)
- ***Patty Lipps:*** (Recovering from a fall and broken ribs at Kettering Hospital)
- ***Elizabeth & Emily McDade:*** (Terry & Evelyn Good's daughter & grand-daughter – prayers as they deal with many issues including grief)
- ***Dave Noll:*** (Friend of Mike Coe-Prayers for recovery from massive stroke)
- ***Gary Pemberton, Sr:*** (He's been diagnosed with Prostate cancer)
- ***Barbara Perry:*** (Carol Perry's step-daughter – receiving treatment for multiple myeloma)
- ***Beverly Proeschel:*** (Prayers for healing of a broken ankle)
- ***Tom Schamel:*** (Prayers for healing)
- ***LeRoy Schatzle:*** (Billie Kay's husband in need of prayers for healing)
- ***Iva-Laura Sherry:*** (Recovering from melanoma)
- ***Jon Tucker:*** (Recovering infection at Green Village Rehabilitation)

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Linda Lambert, Becky Haws, Charlie, Tracy, Jim Carlisle, Dave O'Shea, George & Barb Suggs, Mark & Jary Tannehill, Jackie Steiner, Connie Martin, Maggie Risko, Rhonda Paige Atkinson, Amy & Bryan Jackson, Andy Proeschel, Judy Newkirk, Mike & Judy Schamel, Suzan Pauley, Tom Schamel, Amanda & Shayla Dell, Fran Kester, Teddi & Mike Watkins, Jenifer Combs, Doug Davis, Pastor Dean & Sandy Haferman, Dave Brumbaugh, Scot Emig, Barbara Worley, Carolyn MacFadyen, Judy Jay, Will Suggs, Earl House, Barbara Lakes, Becky Hoskins, Kayli Johnson, Joe McHenry, Tom Barnes: and those serving in the military: Maj. Love Hartman; Brad Newkirk; Lt. Col. Kyle Hundley, Travis Deck & family

Great Commission Outreach Partners:
World Mission Prayer League—Chris & Emily and family, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families, Abundant Grace, West Chester

Inherit the Kingdom

Find the 37 ***bold*** *words from Matthew 25:31-36 (ESV)*

P R E P A R E D U F G A V E E
M H D N D C R N O S I R P Z T
D G U R O E A U R E H T O N A
O E I N H R N M W S B M N Y R
S N R P G D H M E O A A W R A
K T E E A R O T L N T F O O P
D H R T H D Y A C I I O R L E
S E I A G T S U O I R O L G S
C O S N N E A N M P E D D V X
N L I S L G S G E J H T I S J
S K O P E D E E D F N S J D Y
A E O T E L H R T H I R S T Y
G E M K H S B F A T H E R Q Z
P N A O M E S L E G N A N E H
H N S I C K D D G O A T S O K

When the **Son** of **Man comes** in his **glory**, and all the **angels** with him, then he will **sit** on his **glorious throne**. Before him will be **gathered** all the **nations**, and he will **separate people one** from **another** as a **shepherd** separates the **sheep** from the **goats**. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are **blessed** by my **Father**, **inherit** the **kingdom prepared** for you from the **foundation** of the **world**. For I was **hungry** and you **gave** me **food**, I was **thirsty** and you gave me **drink**, I was a **stranger** and you **welcomed** me, I was **naked** and you **clothed** me, I was **sick** and you **visited** me, I was in **prison** and you **came** to me."

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It's Poinsettia Time !

Deadline for orders is

SUNDAY, December 13, 2026

The price of each Poinsettia is **$10.00.** The colors are: **Red, White, Pink, "Jingle Bell" (speckled) and Marble**. However, once they are out of a color, **RED** will be substituted — so get your order in early!

Please **mark the quantity** next to the color/s along with the total and **$** amount. Also include your **dedication information** and **your name**, then place this form with your payment (**marked "For Poinsettias"**) in the **offering plate**. Thank You.

____Red ____Pink ____White ____Jingle Bell ____ Marble

Total Flowers ordered _____ x $10.00 = _____

Dedication: _____

_____

From: _____

Last day to order — 12/13/2026

Children's message: Have you ever seen a picture of a king? What's on his head? A crown, probably made of gold, and maybe some jewels. That's supposed to be a sign that this person is VERY important. Does anyone remember what day it is in the Church year? Christ the King Sunday. When God's Son came down and walked the earth, what kind of crown was he given? Not gold, it was made out of thorns. This world, at its worst, rejected him. *But then he rose again*! The Heavenly Father put *Jesus* in charge, and shockingly, he *still* loves us! This is a very different King. By his great kindness, we get to be children of God's Kingdom. And as he cares for us, he wants us to take care of each other. Let's pray…

Last and Lasting Things

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. Christ the King Sunday stands as the culmination of the Church's calendar year. However, at a practical level, it has a way of falling between the cracks of a society that's busy planning school break and Thanksgiving, maybe caught up in travel plans, wondering about the weather forecast, and for some, worrying about computer glitches for airplanes. That's a lot of moving parts. So, to use a seasonal illustration, the message of the day easily finds itself relegated to a back burner, somewhere next to sautéed onions.

Then again, maybe Christ the King Sunday is most *honest* when slightly neglected. Hasn't this been the story of regard for the Lord all the way back to Genesis 3? When we account for the ongoing spiritual battle, we realize that God's majesty has often been deliberately ignored by a world caught up in its own self-importance. Add in modern times, where culture flies along at the speed of stress, and who even notices the quiet things that abide?

Yet, here we are! For this day tells the story of ultimate truth, how things will stand in the end, and how they stand even now, if we have eyes

to see. As it turns out, the last things will be the lasting things, that which God has valued all the way along. The breakthrough occurs when *we* value them, too.

We really do need a sense of the big picture, a heavenly reminder as we make our way through the dust and drama here below. As our eyes scan back across the centuries, we see that no king, queen, emperor, tyrant, prime minister, or president has been able to fix what can only be healed by God deep within the human heart. Just about the time that a winter chill of cynicism begins to settle in, along comes the promise of the warm, healing light of Christ: "*When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne*" (Mt. 25:31).

All the troubles will be resolved one day. Let me say that again, not according to my opinion, but based on the Word of the Lord. All the troubles will be resolved one day. St. Paul, who knew deep suffering firsthand, called the experience of a Christian a "*light momentary affliction… preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison*" (2 Cor. 4:17).

But if we set our main focus on the world, we will find ourselves becoming down in spirit. So, look more closely, with the eyes of your heart. Listen more attentively to a still more excellent Word. There is truth so deep and good that it resonates with the very first days of creation. And as goodness reigned back then, so it will be in the end, according to the sovereign will of Almighty God.

Come what may here below, do not get so overwhelmed that you become a casualty of discouragement, or even an ambassador of it. There are woes, of course, and legitimate warnings. But if earthly troubles are allowed the primary place, a deeper truth may be missed, that blessings endure right in the middle of the problems. The main battle front is actually in your own mind (Rom. 12:2).

This very week, you have an opportunity to practice your faith at the Thanksgiving table. Actually name your blessings. God has been with you all the way along, tough though some chapters have been. Understand your identity as a member of the Kingdom of Heaven. Walk in that light, and share it.

Now, a key point for today is also a mysterious one. The Kingship of Jesus is not immediately evident on earth, *and that's how he wanted it*!... for his *first* coming. So, it was carpenter's clothing, no higher than a lowly shepherd. He allowed himself to be stripped of dignity on the cross. He was even confused for a working gardener (Jn. 20:15). It was important that he was revealed only to faith, to the eyes of the heart, and not to the vainglory visions of a proud world caught up in a spiritual rebellion. Let all the humble recognize their true Lord. His redeeming love for sinners descended even unto the realm of the dead (1 Peter 3:18-19; 4:6). All of this is crucial to the sacred story, though it's only part of it. Our Lord's humble walk was made, so to speak, *incognito*.

But just because he came in cloaked form doesn't mean that he wasn't from everlasting glory. Nor did his humble incarnation mean that he forfeited his standing. When he ascended to the right hand of God, how could his glory not shine even brighter, for he had won a mighty victory over the devil and the darkness. Christ is the King! He will come again to judge the living and the dead. Faith affirms this truth, and it gives us strength for the battle.

The perfect King will come a second time. He knows how hard this life can be, for he walked it *as one* of us, and carried the load *for all* of us. He knows how vulnerable a lamb can feel with wolves and lions on the prowl. But we have not been abandoned. The transcendent King assures us that he's also the Shepherd close at hand.

Yes, the whole Bible insists on holding two realities together, neither collapsing them, nor completely separating them. God is other, almighty and everlasting, an unmovable anchor in the storm, an unshakable fortress in the earthquake. At the same time, our Lord is one of us, bending low to care for the smallest in the flock. He's the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep. He's the Lamb who was slain. God is so big that He can handle everything. God is so close at hand that he's with you, one day at a time, in your trials, joys, and humble blessings.

May this day serve as a homeward call. If you've ever wandered to unwise places, God wants you to listen very carefully to the Prophet Ezekiel. For the Lord said: "*I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out"* (34:11b). *"I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness"* (12b). *"I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak…"* (vs. 16a). On the other hand, as for those who have used temporary strength to "*push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak sheep with your horns…I will judge…*" (vs. 21-22).

It's just a short leap from the goodness of those words to the justice and mercy of the vision of Christ in the last time: "*Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you*" (Mt. 25:37-39)? "*Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me*" (Mt. 25:40). His Church, throughout the world, seeking to serve the Kingdom's redemptive purpose, is never alone.

What an honor it is to serve the true King! He redeems us. Beyond all cruelty and corruption stands a perfect realm, where peace is at home, where wounds of all kinds are healed. And we have this blessing now, by faith. Jesus is with us, still cloaked, but real nonetheless. This we celebrate,

here at the crowning of the year, on Christ the King Sunday. Thanks be to God. Amen.