

**Stewardship 2025  
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,  
Today and  
Tomorrow**

**Psalm 46:7 “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.”**

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP  
27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
November 24, 2024 – Advent Beginnings  
8:00 AM Traditional Worship**

**Pastor:** Paula Geister-Jones    **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

**Organist/Pianist:** Linda Kunz

**Lector:** Brenda Zarth

**Acolytes:** Brady Sickles & Beckett Horswill

**Ushers:** Sue Walls, Sandra Maerz, Sue Weum, Sharon Manson

**Technical Support:** Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

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.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “Before You, Lord, We Bow” Darwell/Callahan**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, our refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

*Brief silence for reflection.*

**P:** Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy,

**C:** we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors, following in the servant way of Jesus. Amen.

**P:** These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are ✝️ forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation.

**C:** Amen.

*Stand*

**HYMN: "Prepare the Royal Highway" ELW #264 vs. 1, 3 & 4**

**vs. 1: Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:**

*Refrain*

**Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!**

**vs. 3: Then fling the gates wide open  
to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him;  
their voices join your singing: *Refrain***

**vs. 4: His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

## 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.

## LITANY

**P:** You are the treasured people of the Lord.

**C:** a people holy to the Lord our God.

**P:** Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C:** Talk about them when you are home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

**P:** One does not live by bread alone,

**C:** but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

## HYMN OF PRAISE: "Ten Thousand Reasons" ACS #1097

PRAISE, THANKSGIVING

### Ten Thousand Reasons

*Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

1097

*Refrain*

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;  
wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,  
O my soul; I'll wor - ship your ho - ly name.

## SALUTATION

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** 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.**

*Sit*

**FIRST READING: Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14**

<sup>9-10</sup> “As I was watching all this, “Thrones were set in place and The Old One sat down. His robes were white as snow, his hair was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, its wheels blazing. A river of fire poured out of the throne. Thousands upon thousands served him, tens of thousands attended him. The courtroom was called to order, and the books were opened.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL CANTICLE: “King of Kings” W&P #80**

**King of kings and Lord of lords: glory, hallelujah.**

**King of kings and Lord of lords: glory, hallelujah.**

**Jesus, Prince of Peace: glory, hallelujah.**

**Jesus, Prince of Peace: glory, hallelujah.**

*The Gospel is announced...*

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: John 18: 33-37**

<sup>33</sup> Pilate went back into the palace and called for Jesus. He said, “Are you the ‘King of the Jews’?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you this about me?” <sup>35</sup> Pilate said, “Do I look like a Jew? Your people and your high priests turned you over to me. What did you do?” <sup>36</sup> “My kingdom,” said Jesus, “doesn’t consist of what you see around you. If it did, my followers would fight so that I wouldn’t be handed over to the Jews. But I’m not that kind of king, not the world’s kind of king.” <sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said, “So, are you a king or not?” Jesus answered, “You tell me. Because I am King, I was born and entered the world so that I could witness to the truth. Everyone who cares for truth, who has any feeling for the truth, recognizes my voice.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

*Stand*

**HYMN: "Before You, Lord, We Bow" ELW #893 vs 1, 3 & 4**

**vs. 1: Before you, Lord, we bow,  
our God who reigns above  
and rules the world below  
with boundless pow'r and love.**

**Our thanks we bring  
in joy and praise,  
our hearts we raise,  
to you we sing!**

**vs. 3: Earth, hear your maker's voice;  
your great redeemer own;  
believe, obey, rejoice,  
and worship God alone.**

**Cast down your pride,  
your sin deplore,  
and bow before  
the Crucified.**

**vs. 4: And when in pow'r he comes,  
oh, then may ev'ry land  
from all its rending tombs  
send forth a glorious band,  
a countless throng,  
with joy to sing  
to heav'n's high king  
salvation's song!**

**APOSTLE'S 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**

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

*A Brief Silence*

**P:** Revive our congregations, synods, and national church body to reflect the love, justice, and kinship of your kingdom. Raise up diverse leaders who teach and serve your people. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** Grant wisdom to the leaders who govern, legislate, and deliberate on our behalf. Advance your nonviolent reign of justice-seeking love through their work. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** Draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated. Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration. Empower activists who advocate for change. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** 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,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** In your eternal presence the saints sing of your majesty. Join our voices with theirs in praise to the one who loves us and frees us from sin. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

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

**C: Amen.**

### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Sit*

**OFFERTORY “O Christ the Same” Schalk/Pavlechko**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray.

**C: Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name. Amen.**

### **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.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand*

## **BLESSING**

**P:** The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One, now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, ✠ bless you now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **SENDING HYMN: "Rejoice, for Christ is King" ELW #430**

**vs. 1: Rejoice, for Christ is king!**

**Your Lord and king adore;  
rejoice, give thanks, and sing,  
and triumph evermore:**

### ***Refrain***

**Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!**

**vs. 2: Our Savior Jesus reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above: *Refrain***

**vs. 3: His kingdom cannot fail;  
he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
the keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus giv'n: *Refrain***

## **POSTLUDE "The King Shall Come" Davisson/Linker**