

Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



WELCOME TO WORSHIP CHRIST THE KING 9:15 a.m. Worship Express November 23, 2025

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

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Lector: Lucas Peterson

Acolytes: Lauren Koch & Ben Foltz

Ushers: Melissa, Hannah & Lucas Peterson

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

In today's gospel lesson Jesus is crucified. How can a king die on a cross? It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This appears to the world as a humiliating defeat. Yet because of that cross Jesus opens the door to something never before seen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Front Porch Waltz" by Rick Thum
Karen Warwick, Hammered Dulcimer

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, ☩ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING SONG: “King of Kings” Worship and Praise

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

King of kings and Lord of lord: glory, hallelujah.

Jesus, Prince of Peace: glory, hallelujah.

Jesus, Prince of Peace: glory, hallelujah.

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.

SONG OF PRAISE: “Blessed Assurance” ELW #638

Vs. 1: Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

***Refrain:* This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**Vs. 3: Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain...***

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

**ANTHEM: “Gently Blows the Snow” by Phyllis Woodsbrown
Karen Warwick, Hammered Dulcimer**

Stand

**GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Help Us, O Lord” Dakota Road
Help us, O Lord, to hear your word.
Open our hearts to feel your word.
Give us the strength to live your word each day.**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 23rd Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43

Narrator: When they got to the place called Skull Hill, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴⁻³⁵ Jesus prayed, “Father, forgive them; they don’t know what they’re doing.” Dividing up his clothes, they threw dice for them. The people stood there

staring at Jesus, and the ring leaders made faces, taunting,
Ring leaders (All): He saved others. Let's see him save himself! The Messiah of God—ha! The Chosen—ha!

Narrator: The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him, making a game of it. They toasted him with sour wine:

Soldiers (All): So you're King of the Jews! Save yourself!

Narrator: Printed over him was a sign: this is the king of the jews. ³⁹ One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him:

Criminal (All): Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us!

Narrator: But the other one made him shut up:

Criminal (All): Have you no fear of God? You're getting the same as him. We deserve this, but not him—he did nothing to deserve this.

Narrator: Then he said,

Criminal (All): Jesus, remember me when you enter your kingdom.

Narrator: He said, "Don't worry, I will. Today you will join me in paradise."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

CHILDREN'S WORD/WORD

Stand

SONG OF THE WORD: "Beautiful Savior" ELW #838

Vs. 1: Beautiful Savior, King of creation,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Vs. 3: Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,

bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer

than all the angels in the sky.

Vs. 4: Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,

Son of God and Son of Man!

**Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
now and forevermore be thine!**

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

C: **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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **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

P: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world,
and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation.
Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands.
Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick. Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING SONG: “Everybody’s Got Something to Offer” Dakota Road

**Refrain: Everybody’s got something to offer;
young and old the prince and the pauper.
Everybody’s got something to offer
in the name of the Lord.**

**Vs. 1: To the lost and the lonely ones
the message it is clear;
we have all got a gift to give
our hands, our hearts, our tears. Refrain...**

**Vs. 2: To the believers gathered here
The message it is true;
we have all got a gift to give
in all we say and do. Refrain...**

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 love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity
bless you ✠ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and
forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Lift High the Cross” Nicholson/Cherwien & Wasson