

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 8:00 a.m. Traditional Service November 23, 2025

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

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Lector: Sue Weum

Acolytes: Hannah Peterson & Slayton Hoverson

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

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

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

HYMN: “Jesus Shall Reign” ELW #434

**Vs. 1: 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.**

**Vs. 2: 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.**

**Vs. 3: 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.**

**Vs. 4: 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.**

**Vs. 5: Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our king;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.**

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: “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...

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹⁻⁴ “Doom to the shepherd-leaders who butcher and scatter my sheep!” God’s Decree. “So here is what I, God, Israel’s God, say to the shepherd-leaders who misled my people: ‘You’ve scattered my sheep. You’ve driven them off. You haven’t kept your eye on them. Well, let me tell you, I’m keeping my eye on *you*, keeping track of your criminal behavior. I’ll take over and gather what’s left of my sheep, gather them in from all the lands where I’ve driven them. I’ll bring them back where they belong, and they’ll recover and flourish. I’ll set shepherd-leaders over them who will take good care of them. They won’t live in fear or panic anymore. All the lost sheep rounded up!’ God’s Decree. ⁵⁻⁶ “Time’s coming”—God’s Decree—“when I’ll establish a truly righteous David-Branch, A ruler who knows how to rule justly. He’ll make sure of justice and keep people united. In his time Judah will be secure again and Israel will live in safety. This is the name they’ll give him: ‘God-Who-Puts-Everything-Right.’”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL CANTICLE: “O God, Our Hope in Ages Past” ELW #632 vs. 1

**Vs. 1: O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.**

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

³³ 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 ringleaders made faces, taunting, “He saved others. Let’s see him save himself! The Messiah of God—ha! The Chosen—ha!” ³⁶⁻³⁷ The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him, making a game of it. They toasted him with sour wine: “So you’re King of the Jews! Save yourself!” ³⁸ Printed over him was a sign: this is the king of the jews. ³⁹ One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him: “Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us!” ⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ But the other one made him shut up: “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.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you enter your kingdom.” ⁴³ 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

SERMON

Stand

HYMN: “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. 2: Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,
robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.**

**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

**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: 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 church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share
the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the
beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear
us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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 pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We give thanks for all who have died in faith. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. 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

OFFERTORY "At the Name of Jesus" Vaughn Williams/Helgen

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and

these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. 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 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.

SENDING HYMN: "Lift High the Cross" ELW #660

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
 till all the world adore his sacred name.

Vs. 1: Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,

our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain...*

**Vs. 2: All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain...***

**Vs. 3: O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain...***

**Vs. 4: So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain...***

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