

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY WITH COMMUNION

The Last Sunday in the Church Year
November 20th, 2022



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
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A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKTi9c_OIBbMqGwLw

Prayer: O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that from the bonds of our sins, which by reason of our weakness we have brought upon us, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WELCOME GUESTS & VISITORS: Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church! Please be aware that our Worship Services are recorded and posted on YouTube and Facebook. There is, although very slight, a possibility that your image might be posted. If you have any concerns, please either speak to the Elder on duty or alternatively seat yourself more towards the back of the sanctuary or along either of the outside aisles. May our gracious and loving Lord bless you as you worship Him. Stay safe and healthy everyone and let's keep our family at Christ safe and healthy.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Phil. 2: 12-18 Wednesday: Mark 13: 33-37 Friday: Heb. 10: 32-39
Tuesday: Heb. 12: 12-17 Thursday: Matt. 25: 14-30 Saturday: Heb. 12: 22-29

Musicians: 10 a.m. – Mayumi Munoz
Reader: 10 a.m. – Fran Porteous
Greeters: 10 a.m. – Ralph & Mary Muller

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Today: 9:10 - 9:45 a.m.: Confirmation Class
10:00 a.m.: Worship (***Voter's Meeting directly following Worship***)
4:30 p.m.: Tree Trimming with pulled pork dinner to follow
Monday: 10:00 a.m.: Luther Manor Bible Study
7:30 p.m.: Choir
Tuesday: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.: **Precious Moments cancelled** - Resumes Tues., Nov. 29
Thursday: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.: SOUL
Next Sunday: 10:00 a.m.: Chrismon Service (*please sign up if you would like to hang a Chrismon*)

COMMUNION NOTE: Today, November 20th will be a Communion Sunday since our usual 4th Sunday this year is Advent 1 which has traditionally been the anticipated Chrismon Service. Any questions speak with Pastor Todd.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is held 9:00 a.m. before service the **first 2 Sundays of each month**. Our focus this year is on "God's Good Rules, His 10 Commandments". Parents are welcome to stay for a coffee and time to read their own devotions or join in Christian conversation.

VOTER'S MEETING TODAY!: November 20th immediately following the Worship Service. There will be updates from the Committee Chairs and a discussion about staying with one service or returning to two services in January.. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Come join us for
TREE TRIMMING
and
DECORATING the CHURCH

Sunday, November 20th @ 4:30 p.m.
Dinner of pulled pork sandwiches to follow!!

Please sign up for attendance in the narthex and for help with the side dishes
or email: secretary@christlutheransc.ca

LMWL-C/MARY MARTHA:

This is such an exciting time to welcome back and extend an invitation to everyone for our new Fall/Winter program. Please mark your calendars so that you may be able to join us:

Saturday, November 26th, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm - CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Tuesday, December 20th - 5:30 p.m. Advent/Christmas Dinner

We look forward to seeing familiar faces at our meetings and welcoming new faces! If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call Lorraine at 905 964 5837!

¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Colossians 3: 14-16

Christmas
Bazaar

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2022

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Come...and invite your Friends!

Help support various Mission Projects around the world and at home!

- Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- Haití Lutheran Mission Society
- Nicaragua
- Lutheran Bible Translators
- Lutheran Medical Missions
- SOUL Ministries
- Refugee Assistance Fund
- Out of the Cold

FEATURING:

- Baking
- Deli
- Crafts
- Nearly New Table
- Silent Auction
- Hot Lunch (dine-in and Take out)

BAZAAR:

Please consider making donations to the Bake, Deli, or Craft Tables or Judy's Silent Auction. As in previous years, donations may be brought in on Friday, Nov. 25, 9:00 am - 8 p.m. Thank you!

*We are hoping for your support by attending and/or making donations to the various Tables.

*Volunteers will be at the church all day Friday until 8 p.m. to receive your donations for the Bake Table, Deli, and Craft Tables

***If you bring baking, please label if it contains peanut butter, peanuts, or raisins or nuts and what kind**

*You may price your own donations if you have a specific amount in mind, or leave it for us to price. If one of the volunteers looking after the table you are donating to isn't there at the time, just place your item(s) on the Table

*For baking and deli, PLEASE RECORD YOUR NAME and what you have brought, in the book that will be on the table.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!!

There are still more posters and invitations at the back of the church

CHRISMON SERVICE – Next Sunday, November 27th: Please sign your name for the emblem you would like to place on the Chrismon Tree during the November 27th Chrismon Service.



Christmas Carol Sing

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2022 - 6:30 PM

Bring along your singing voice, family and friends!
Enjoy an evening of carol singing and prepare to celebrate the
birth of our Lord

Fellowship and Refreshments to follow:

Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate + Snacks

Nativity Set Display

Invite your family, friends, neighbours for a fun evening!

Sign-up sheet in the Narthex

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY SETS: We ask that members bring in their nativity sets for display on December 4th. We would ask that they be left at the church and clearly marked with your name by Friday, December 2nd.

Last Sunday Attendance: November 13th, 2022 Attn: 10 a.m. – 79

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current:	283,291.00	5,554.73	3,598.00	186,243.42	(64,360.16)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	392.16	632.00	13,719.00	(3,973.31)
Property Improvement:			242.00	5,814.00	

MEMORIAL DONATIONS have been given to SOUL in loving memory of Rev. Frank Silver by: Marilyn Phelan, Colleen McDonald, Robert Milmine, Tom & Mary Saxton, Brandon & Amy Kemp, Doris Fraser, Anna Schneikart, Tom & Kathy Kuhl, Judy Slingerland, Frank & Ivy Parkhouse, Eric & Marge Stark, Glenn & Carole Pink and Murray & Cynthia Israel.

FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by Doris Harmer & family in loving memory of Helmut Eppinger.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: Tim Reck, Fellowship Chairman, needs volunteers for Events. Please contact him if you can help.

Notice to Church Extension Fund Depositors: The Church Extension Fund (CEF) is winding down its operations and as of now all depositors with current addresses have received their deposited funds plus the interest owing. However, we have a number of unclaimed savings accounts and savings certificates as we do not have current contact information for these. If you or someone you know thinks they may have a CEF account which has not been redeemed, please contact Darryl Holland at: 800-465-8179 ext4 or dholland@lceast.ca. Also if you are in possession of God Bank Savings Stamps or Tracky Stamps, these too can be redeemed by returning the books or stamps to: Lutheran East District, 275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHEER

To share the joy of Christmas with those in our community who are less fortunate than we are, the “Outreach Committee” is planning to distribute, complete Christmas turkey dinner packages. We are asking for confidential referrals from our members. Last year we helped 25 families by making up 25 baskets.

We need your help by:

- Providing us with confidential referrals which can be placed into a box located in our church narthex
- Donating the funds required for the purchase of perishable and non-perishable food items which will be purchased just before the packages are distributed
- Letting the Outreach Committee,
Judy Mason—905-641-7546
Howard Bogusat—905-468-3566
know if you would be willing to help package baskets
- Praying that this project is a success and that those who receive these gifts are touched by the joy and wonder of our Saviour’s birth and by His love for each one of us.

(PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE COLLECTING “MONETARY DONATIONS” ONLY FOR THIS PROJECT)

THANK YOU!

LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK SETTING ONE
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY COMMUNION
The Last Sunday in the Church Year
November 20, 2022+ 10 AM

OPENING HYMN: "Crown Him With Many Crowns" www.hymnal.net/en/hymn/h/142

**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.**

**Crown Him the Lord of Love: Behold His hands and side;
Rich wounds yet visible above in beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright.**

**Crown Him the Lord of life triumphant from the grave,
Who rose victorious from 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.**

Words: Matthew Bridges (1800 - 1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823 - 1903) public domain

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.**

[Brief silence for reflection]

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 neighbours
as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake, forgives you all of your
sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your
sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SPOKEN KYRIE:

**O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on us, hear us and give us Your
peace. Amen.**

THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:


Almighty and merciful God, You break the power of evil and make all things new in Your Son Jesus Christ, the King of the universe. May all in heaven and earth acclaim your glory and never cease to praise you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE SCRIPTURES

The Old Testament: *Jeremiah 23:2-6* Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.' This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Colossians 1:13-20* [St. Paul writes:] Jesus has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**


ALLELUIA VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel: *St. Luke 23:35-43*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 23rd chapter:



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

And the people stood by, watching [Jesus' crucifixion]; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.' This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

CHOIR ANTHEM MEDLEY:

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom (3x with variations)

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.

As the branch is to the vine, I am His and He is mine.
Jesus only can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart;
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n;
Faith and hope to walk with God in the way that Enoch trod.

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Saviour divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
Oh, let me from this day be wholly Thine!
When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Saviour then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
Oh bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom

LSBHymn license.net #000010

THE NICENE CREED: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.



1 Be - hold a host, ar - rayed in white, like thou - sand
snow - clad moun - tains bright! With palms they stand; who is
this band be - fore the throne of light? These are the
saints of glo - rious fame, who from the great af - flic - tion
came and in the flood of Je - sus' blood are cleansed from
guilt and blame. Now gath - ered in the ho - ly place,
their voic - es they in wor - ship raise; their an - thems
rise where God re - sides, mid an - gels' songs of praise.

3. O blessèd saints in bright array
Now safely home in endless day,
Extol the Lord, Who with His Word
Sustained you on the way.
The steep and narrow path you trod;
You toiled and sowed the Word
abroad;

Rejoice and bring -- Your fruits and sing
Before the throne of God.
The myriad angels raise their song;
O saints, sing with that happy throng!
Lift up one voice; Let heav'n rejoice
In our Redeemer's song!

MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS *are gathered*

OFFERING SONG

"Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful"



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

PRAYERS

Almighty God and King, we praise you for the coming of your Son to earth. We thank you that the first time he came in humility and lowliness as our Saviour; now we look forward to his return in power and glory as our merciful judge. Bless your holy church throughout the world, that she may be watchful and ready for your Son's return.

Lord, hear our prayer:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

You watch over the nations of the earth. Ease the burdens of those who live in strife torn lands. Give all leaders a spirit of justice and wisdom and bless the work of all who work for peace and harmony.

Lord, hear our prayer:

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Strengthen your church so that she never ceases to magnify the gospel to all people. Preserve us from scepticism, and give us courage to witness to the truth of Your saving power. Preserve our Synod and Regional leadership as well as all those with whom we are ministry partners across the globe.

Lord, hear our prayer: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Open the eyes of those who use violence, terrorism and sabotage to find the error of their ways. Especially we remember.....Have mercy on all who do wrong, and turn them to you in repentance and faith.

Lord, hear our prayer: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

You feed the hungry and take care of the orphan and widow. Be with the poor, the homeless, the friendless, the sick, and the prisoner. We especially remember today all who are in need for hope and relief [names added now...]. Use us to bring your blessing to those in need through our service and abilities.

Lord, hear our prayer: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Father, your church awaits the day when the Son of Man will come in his glory, and the angels with him, and he will sit on his royal throne. Until that day, when we will be received as your blessed people, keep us safe in your care. Make us merciful, serving your Son now as he comes to us in those in need. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection, opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their un-ending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(LSB Page 161)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name....*

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "Take, eat; This is My + Body which is given for you, this do, in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying "Drink of it all of you, this cup is the New Testament in My + Blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

LAMB OF GOD

LSB tune # 163

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS:

"Let All Mortal Flesh"

1 Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence And with fear and
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar-y, As of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav-en Spreads its van-guard
 4 At His feet the six-winged ser-aph, Cher-u-bim with
 trem-bling stand; Pon-der noth-ing earth-ly-mind-ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu-man ves-ture,
 on the way As the Light of Light, de-scend-ing
 sleep-less eye, Veil their fac-es to the pres-ence
 For with bless-ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de-
 In the bod-y and the blood, He will give to all the
 From the realms of end-less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
 As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-
 scend - ing Comes our hom-age to de-mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n-ly food.
 van - quish As the dark-ness clears a-way.
 lu - ia! Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!"

“All Who Are Thirsty”

[Have Thine Own Way Lord tune]

Chord symbols: Eb, Ab, Eb, Bb7, Eb, Ab, Eb7, Ab, Eb/Bb, Bb7, Eb

All who are thir -- sty, come to the Lord;
 All who are hun - gry, feed on His Word;
 Dine with - out pay -- ment, Food with-out price,
 Eat with thanks - giv - ing, God's sac - ri - fice.

2 God will provide you richest of food:
come to the table, drink what is good.
Call on His mercy while he is near,
turn from rebellion, come without fear;

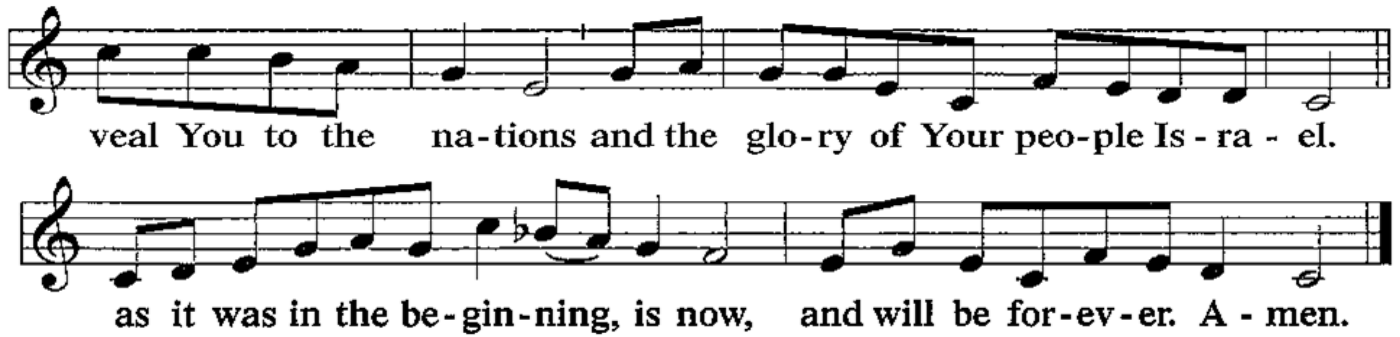
3 Come for your pardon grace will abound!
This is the place where he can be found.
praise to our Saviour, joy and renown
ours is the blessing, his be the crown

Michael Perry (1942 – 1996) © Mrs B Perry/Jubilate Hymns 5 4 5 4 D
https://www.jubilate.co.uk/songs/all_who_are_thirsty_come_to_the_lord

POST COMMUNION HYMN: “Lord, Now You Let”

LSB # 165

Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -
 filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -
 pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -



POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

O Father, as You fed Your children with the True Manna, the Living Bread from Heaven, give unto us, we humbly pray You, that the Body and Blood of Your Son may be our support throughout our earthly pilgrimage, until we reach that land where there is neither hunger nor thirst, Your magnificent Heavenly Banquet; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace.

Amen

CLOSING SONG:

“Do Lord!”

**Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me;
Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me;
Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me;
Look a-way, be-yond the blue!**

**I've got a home in glory land that outshines the sun!
I've got a home in glory land that outshines the sun!
I've got a home in glory land that outshines the sun!
Look a-way, be-yond the blue!**

**Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me;
Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me;
Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me;
Look a-way, be-yond the blue!**

**As you bear the cross of Jesus, then you wear the crown;
As you bear the cross of Jesus, then you wear the crown;
As you bear the cross of Jesus, then you wear the crown –
Look a-way, beyond the blue!**

**Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me;
Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me;
Do Lord, O do Lord, O do remember me;
Look a-way, be-yond the blue!**

REV. TODD HOEFFS
Christ the King Sunday (series C)
Scripture: Luke 23
Unforgettable, that's what WE are
November 20, 2022

In 1925, Christ the King Sunday 1st appeared on the Christian calendar. After the death and destruction of WW 1 and the growing disenchantment with faith and God, this festival was chosen to exemplify Jesus' Lordship over death and life. Even after soldiers from every country in Europe and North America killed each other on a scale never seen before, Jesus is still in control, showing His power and glory in suffering and dying on behalf of this bomb-cratered, entrenched, obliterated world. In His dying, He remembers all and gathers all into His embrace, as a King holding His subjects in the palms of His nail-scarred hands. One of the greatest human fears is being forgotten. "Jesus, remember me". That haunting plea from a thief on the cross that day near Jesus echoes a cry that arises deep within each one of us. We all know how important it is to be remembered. Thoughtfulness is a sign of love, respecting someone enough to hold them in your memory. The social media and Facebook/Twitter life style now is built around the need to be heard and remembered. Pictures and statements can be put out there, and unless the selected audience "likes" it immediately or offers a smiley face, that person feels unwanted and forgotten. Social media recognition must be immediate and can stay there for undocumented lengths of time. Its great communication and at the same time can give a false sense of reality. Remembering is an important part of our lives. Like your birthday, or a phone call, a letter, an email, text or visit. We all want to be remembered. It means that we matter, we belong, we exist, and our life is real. When we're remembered someone else bears witness to all those things. As people age remembering becomes more difficult. One of the main reasons senior adults do not want to move out of their home is because they're afraid they'll forget about life. The familiarity of a home changes when placed into an apartment or nursing home or hospital. It chips away at the memory until little is even remembered. It feels alive just being remembered. In being remembered, we are being made whole. Compare that with being forgotten. Forgotten is lonely, rejected, uncertain, afraid, maybe even angry. Questions and doubts arise. We're no longer sure of our place and whether we even belong. There was a time in the paradise of Eden when our first parents hoped that God would, in fact, not remember, but forget, as they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord after eating the forbidden fruit. Their sin and rebellion had broken the wonderful relationship with God, and now they live in fear. Sin makes them afraid to have God with them, They don't want Him to know what they've done. But isn't it far worse not to have God with us? To be alone? To be lost and abandoned? To be without God is to be without hope. Ever since Adam and Eve's sin, like them, we, too, have been outside the

gates of paradise, longing to return. And this is what Jesus assures the penitent thief on the cross. At the place of the Skull Jesus binds together His people.

“When I am lifted up from the earth”, Jesus says, “I will draw all people to Myself”. Crucifixion.

Brutal execution by stripping naked, whipping, and nailing to a cross through the hands and feet was carefully crafted by the Romans to inflict the maximum amount of pain and degradation.

They wanted to kill not only the individual but also any followers. That is to say, by demonstrating their iron-fisted authority over Jesus, the Romans hoped to kill any aspirations in any of his followers to “take up their cross and follow.” In the midst of the death and brutality, in a turn-around moment in time, all orchestrated by the same Jesus hanging there helplessly, a thief asks to be remembered.

And that is faith; simple, child-like, trusting faith. In response, Jesus assures him of a homecoming.

He assures him that he will not be alone or abandoned: Today you will be with me in paradise! What Adam and Eve had lost, Jesus has regained, and he freely shares what he has gained, first with the penitent thief and then with all who cry out in faith and trust to Jesus: “Remember me when you come into your kingdom.” The thief wants to be remembered.

He’s not asking to simply be thought about. What good does that do him? “ Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” That thief seems to understand an awful lot about a man He barely knows. Who knows what he believes or has heard or saw of Jesus beforehand.

He heard Jesus forgive THEM for they knew not what they were doing as they pounded the nails into Jesus and lifted Him up on the cross. Maybe this thief takes a chance that he is a part of THEM who get forgiven?! He’s a dis-membered child of God wishing to be made whole.

Jesus is going to that Paradise and so is that thief. The Son of Man restores a son of man, makes complete what Adam and Eve broke. We also want to be remembered, to have the many pieces of our life put back together. Our cry to be re-membered is also a recognition and confession of our dis-memberment. Sometimes it happens through the circumstances of life; loss and grief, shattered dreams, disappointment, regret, failures, the death of family and friends. Other times it comes about through our actions, our words, even our thoughts. Our life becomes fragmented and broken. When that happens, we can easily become thieves. We take what is not ours.

We dis-member others’ lives to put our own back together. It happens in all sorts of ordinary ways: anger and resentment, criticism, judgment, envy, comparison and competition, gossip, bad mouthing another, perfectionism, the need to be right or in control, busyness, excessive productivity and efficiency. Look at your relationships. Wherever there is strain, hurt, brokenness, chances are that you or another are being dis-membered, forgotten, torn apart. That’s not the life God gave us. That’s not His wonderful dream or hope for us. A world created good.

A people made in His good image. The cross is the ultimate sacrificial, perfectly good act,

God's glory in remembering His people, His "good" world: God in Christ joining and aligning the world to Himself; coming right up next to us in the pain and suffering of this life. Dying that we might have life in our dying. Remembering all who forget Him time after time. Remembering is always an act of love. God remembers us in Baptism. We are washed into Jesus' Blood bathed resurrected Body, We live in that bond whenever we worship and remember our baptismal identity.

We remember Christ when we eat His Bread and drink His Cup, the Holy Communion, participating in His cross. A sinful part of our very self dies and our new life in Christ stands up new, alive, put back together. Every time we participate in the life of Christ we're living-out mercy, compassion and forgiveness. Every time we speak a word of hope and encouragement; every time we love without condition, expectation, or payment – we participate in Christ's remembering of our own lives, the lives of each other, and the life of the world. We "do this in remembrance of [Jesus]." Paradise is a promise of opening the door for all who are remembered by God through Christ on the cross. Remembering is neither about the past nor the future; it's about today. Being truly present in the presence of Jesus. In whatever our life circumstances might be. We are forever and always re-membered.

Made whole by Jesus' Blood, Life and Spirit.

Even though death will one day separate our body from our soul, Our ashen remains will be re-knitted back with our soul in Paradise when the new heavens and new earth come to be when the time is right with God.

When the unknown day and hour of the end comes to completion.

Paradise anew.

All welcomed into God's Kingdom.

Remembering all of His unforgettable children.

Amen.