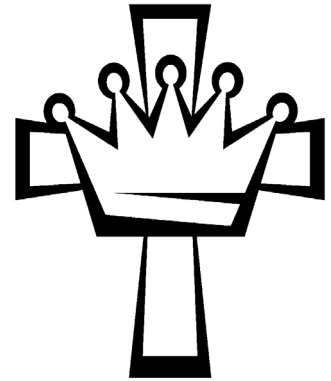


Christ the King

November 22, 2026

Christ the King Sunday, Proper 29 (Year A)

On the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the church celebrates the identity of Christ as King of kings. This one who is the Good Shepherd of the sheep is a king who serves the outcast, infirm, forsaken, and alone and calls his followers to do the same. The reign of God comes near whenever God's people act in faith and obedience to God's holy will for the other. Jesus is unlike any other king.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

The Lord Will Search Out his Flock

The Shepherd God of Israel would seek out his flock and bring them home, into their own land. He would seek those that are lost, gone astray, injured or weak and bring them unto himself, where they would be fed and kept safe from harm.

Psalms 95:1-7a

Make a Joyful Noise

The psalmist encouraged the congregation to sing songs of praise to the Lord, saying, "He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture." He praised God's wonderful works of creation, urging all to bow down in grateful worship.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

We are Made Alive in Christ

Paul explained that by one man, Adam, all humans have died because of sin. By one man, Jesus, all also would be made alive through his resurrection. Everything comes in the proper order, Paul said. First Christ would bring home those who belong to him, then the end would come and all earthly authority would be destroyed.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

The Final Judgment

Jesus spoke to his followers about the final judgment of God, saying that whenever they serve someone who is hungry or thirsty, visit the imprisoned, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger and so forth, they serve him. When they neglect to serve others, they are also neglecting to serve him. The life of discipleship is one that puts others ahead of self. This is the defining characteristic of righteousness, to serve those who are the "least."

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: White

During the Season of Pentecost:

• Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

With children, collect a bunch of different crowns and compare them with a crown of thorns. (Using images for this would work as well.) Discuss with kids how different the crowns are and how Jesus' crown was meant to be an insult.

This is the last Sunday of the church year. The cycle of Advent through Pentecost begins again next Sunday. The cycles of the liturgical year are like the cycles of life — endings and new beginnings, times of joy and times of growth, times of quiet, and times of repentance.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Lead On, O King Eternal	495	---	---	805	---	---
Let Me Be Yours Forever	490	---	689	---	7	7
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	456	---	709	502	198	198
We Praise You, O God	241	---	785	870	35	35
What Wondrous Love is This	385	---	543	666	254	254
When Peace Like a River	346	---	763	785	224	224
Come, Thou Almighty King	522	---	905	408	247	247
Crown Him with Many Crowns	170	---	525	855	22	22
Go, My Children, with My Blessing	---	721	922	543	53	53
Beautiful Savior	518	---	537	838	252	252

*The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."*

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

You Are My King (Amazing Love)
(CCLI# 2456623)
You are My All in All
(CCLI# 825356)
Open Up the Heavens
(CCLI# 825356)
Hosanna (Praise is Rising)
(CCLI# 4662491)
Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)
(CCLI# 7019974)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.