

Christ the King Sunday

November 23, 2025 10:30 AM



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Sandi Tallant – Organist Todd Childers – Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9am to 1pm

Tuesday and Thursday 12pm to 4pm

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact Pastor Doug (980) 234-8848.

**Stand Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOV = Blue TCH = Burgundy*

PRELUDE *Please observe silence for meditation and prayer.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love, grace and forgiveness in Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and confession of our sins before God and one another.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy upon us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all our sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

* **GATHERING HYMN** “Crown Him with Many Crowns” Verses 1-4 LBW 170

* **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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, you have crowned your Son as King and, by him, will renew your whole creation. May the families of the earth now torn apart and yoked by sin find liberty in him and be subjected to his gentle rule. Grant this, we pray, through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING PSALM 145: 1-14, 21 (A Song of Praise. Of David)

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. ² Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. ³ Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. ⁴ One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. ⁶ They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. ⁷ They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸ The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. ¹⁰ All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you! ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, ¹² to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works. ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. ²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God**

PSALM 95: 1-7a (Enthronement Psalm)

¹ Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

³ For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

⁴ **In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

⁶Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

^{7a}For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

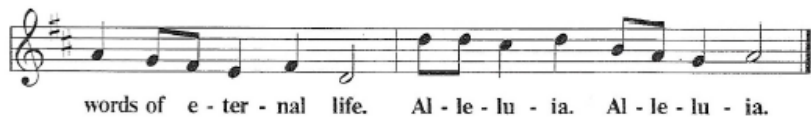
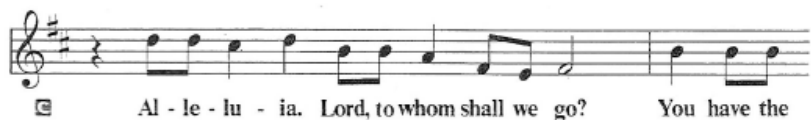
SECOND READING: Philippians 2: 1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ^[a] ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ^[b] ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, ^[c] being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God**

The congregation is invited to stand.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go”**



***GOSPEL: Luke 23: 27-43**

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke. C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁷There followed {Jesus} a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the

breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?” ³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to You O Christ!

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON



our Lord and Savior!

“Lift Up Your Heart, Lift Up Your Voice, Rejoice the Lord is King! Christ’s Reign Among Us is Love, Grace, and Mercy”
Pastor Doug Hefner

As we conclude another year of grace and begin a new year of grace, may we, like the faithful before us in using the Enthronment Psalms, rededicate ourselves and our lives to the reign and kingship of

***HYMN OF THE DAY “Rejoice, the Lord is King”**

LBW 171

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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**

Response at the end of each petition. P: Lord in your mercy, C: **Hear our prayer.**

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: **And also with you.**

Worshipers may greet one another with "the Peace of Christ."

The assembly may be seated.

* **OFFERING** In response to God's blessings, we offer our tithes to the Lord

HOLY COMMUNION – MEAL OF GRACE

* **OFFERTORY** Let the Vineyards

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.

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Merciful Father, C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

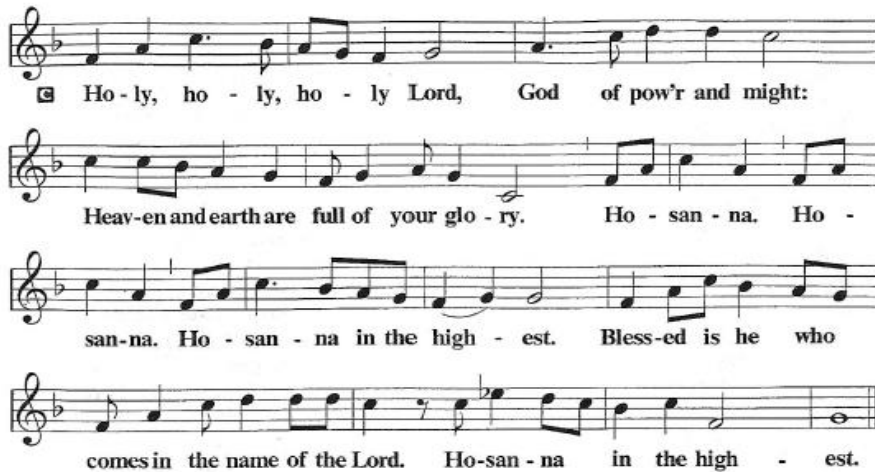
***DIALOGUE AND PREFACE**

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



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.

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: The Gifts of God for the People of God. C: Thanks be to God!
The assembly may be seated.

All are invited to receive Holy Communion.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God

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 congregation is invited to stand.

* COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!” Verses 1-5 LBW 328**

*DISMISSAL

P: Rejoicing in the loving, redeeming reign of Jesus Christ our Lord, let us go in peace and joy to love and follow Christ as our King by loving and serving our neighbor as we proclaim the Gospel in word and deed. **C: Thanks be to God!**



In the Grace Church Family:

Jeffry Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Lisa Childers Fox, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Larry Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Harvey Leatherman, Phil & Malinda Leatherman, Tim Leatherman, Betty Matheson,

Joe Momier, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Michael Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Mike, Debi & Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Ken & Tirzah Welch, Scott & Carolyn Whisnant, and Nancy Willis.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village)

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Ashlee Bumgardner, Clinton Childers, Evelyn Childers, John Lentz, William Lynch, Chris Medlin, Randy & Rita Neill, Ray Porter, Anita Sabino, and Scott Speagle. Prayers for world peace and for our church, the United States of America, and especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

November 23 – Alan Shull

COMING UP AT GRACE THIS WEEK

Today: Christ the King Sunday

9:30am – Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Celebration

Wednesday

Community Thanksgiving Service at Plateau Community Church

6:00pm – Soup & Sandwich Meal (Grace is providing desserts)

7:00pm – Worship Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 23 Deadline to order Christmas Poinsettias.

November 26 Community Thanksgiving Service at Plateau, Dinner at 6:00 pm; Worship at 7:00 pm. Grace will be providing desserts.

November 29 Hanging of the Greens 10:00 am

November 30 First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 10, 17 Midweek Advent Services 6:30 pm

December 6 Breakfast with Santa (Community Event) 9:00am at Fellowship Hall

December 13 Wreaths Across America at 11:00 am at Union Church

December 14 Congregational Meeting immediately after Worship

December 24 (Wed.) Christmas Eve – Candlelight & Holy Communion 4:00 pm



THANK YOU!

The people of God at Grace collected 61 shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts for needy children around the world. Your efforts to ensure that they hear about Jesus and His love for children everywhere are greatly appreciated.



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a special congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, December 14th. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on a proposed amendment to the Constitution which was approved by the Board at the regular November meeting on November 17th. A motion was made and seconded to amend the bylaws of the Constitution such that the following portion of section B12.02 line 2 be stricken:

“Immediate family members (family of origin = parent/child; husband/wife; siblings/blood or step; grandparents/grandchildren) shall not serve on the Board at the same time.”



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS:

Order forms for Christmas poinsettias and a special offering envelope are available today. Please place your order form along with payment inside the special envelope and give it to the ushers. Use the special envelope for the date that you place your poinsettia order and designate how much of your offering is for poinsettias, the general fund, the building fund, etc. If you are not ordering poinsettias please just use your regular offering envelopes. The cost for each plant is \$12.00 and the

deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 23.



THE HANGING OF THE GREENS is scheduled for scheduled for Saturday, November 29th at 10:00 am. Please join us to decorate Grace Church for the celebration of the coming of our Lord.

**Sat. Dec 6 at 9am Pancakes,
Crafts, Santa Pictures**

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**at Grace Church 4536 Hwy Lincoln
Hwy Newton 704-462-1035**



celebration, please sign up by calling/emailing the office or the sign-up sheet in worship.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Grace is hosting a Breakfast with Santa celebration for the community on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 9am. We will have pancakes with the trimmings. We will share the Christmas story and enjoy a craft, Christmas music and games, and a picture with Santa. If you would like to help with this



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Please join us on Saturday, December 13th at 11:00am to honor our veterans in the Grace Cemetery where their bodies have been laid to rest. No matter where they served or how, Wreaths Across America strives to ensure that no one is forgotten.



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PLAY

During worship on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 10:30am, Grace members will present Silent Night: Celebrating Christmas in the Luther Household. This play will feature Martin Luther and his wife Katie and their children as they celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. Luther loved the beautiful meaning of Christmas and wrote hymns and started traditions to help his family receive the Good News of God's love in Christ at Christmas. Pastor Doug will be playing the part of Martin Luther. We will need 3 or 4 children/youth to participate along with someone to play Katie Luther. If interested, please let Pastor Doug or Stormy know as soon as possible so that we can get you the script and set up a practice. The congregation will join in singing some of the Christmas hymns that are a part of the play.

Ministers of Grace – All the People of Grace

Pastor – Reverend Doug Hefner Board President – Tim Eckard

Lector – Stormy Shull Youth Leader – Stormy Shull

Altar Preparation – Cindy Bivens

Communion Assistants – Cindy Bivens & Shelly Scronce

Ushers – James Hall & Jack Wilfong

Offering Counters – Todd Childers & Sheila Drum

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Christ the King Sunday (Proper 29) – November 23, 2025

“There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’”

– Luke 23:38 –

The world thinks it is ridiculous that our lives are wrapped up in the story of Jesus Christ. After all, He died a spectacularly horrible death. How could He possibly give us what we need for a full and happy life? How can He be our refuge? The story of Jesus is terrible, sad, even disturbing and yet we look to the cross and find peace.

Why is this cross so important? Why would we choose to remember this moment of Christ’s life – His death on this day which is set aside for Christ the King? The sign placed above Jesus’ head on the cross called Him “The King of the Jews.” It was meant as an insult. How could a king die nearly naked hanging by a few nails on a cross? He is King because He died.

We celebrate a different kind of king. Jesus Christ did not have a typical coronation. The kings and queens of the world celebrate their elevation to monarch with grand parties and ostentatious ceremonies. It is such an important moment that they want everything to be new, beautiful, and perfect.

Jesus’ coronation was much different. On Palm Sunday, Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem like a king. He rode a donkey, surrounded by crowds singing praise to God for the Messiah. Just a few days later, He was nailed to the cross, because He disappointed everyone who had put their hope in Him. The followers turned because He was not doing what they expected of a king. Even His closest friends betrayed, denied, and abandoned Him. Yet, it was at the very moment that Jesus cried out and gave up His spirit that He was crowned King. On that coronation cross, He fulfilled the purpose of His life, taking the entire burden of God’s justice on His flesh for our sake. His obedience to God’s will won Him the greatest crown of all and eternal life in His Kingdom for all who believe.