

**Christ the King Sunday**  
**November 23, 2025 – 10am**

*Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**—Liturgist

Please stand as you are able, and join me in the call to worship.

Leader: We are precious to the Unfolding of the Cosmos.

**People: We are important to the plan of Holy Love.**

Leader: Each one of us, a universe in & of ourselves.

**People: Each wildflower, a blessed life.**

Leader: Can you feel how God delights in us?!—

**People: How She sighs, contently, when we mirror her Compassion.**

Leader: How She dances with joy when we relish Wonder.

**People: We praise God because we are fearfully & wonderfully made.**

**\*HYMN 367**

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Ribbon

*Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.*

1 Come, ye thankful people, come;  
raise the song of harvest home.  
All is safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come;

raise the song of harvest home.

2 All the world is God's own field,  
fruit in thankful praise to yield,  
wheat and tares together sown,  
unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade, and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.

3 For the Lord our God shall come,  
and shall take the harvest home;  
from each field shall in that day  
all offenses purge away;  
give the angels charge at last  
in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in God's garner evermore.

4 Even so, Lord, quickly come  
to thy final harvest home.  
Gather thou thy people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin,  
there forever purified,  
in thy presence to abide:  
come, with all thine angels, come;  
raise the glorious harvest home!

**CALL TO CONFESSION** –Liturgist

Please be seated.

Beloved, we are made in the divine image,  
and God called us good.

Yet we go our own way,  
causing harm to ourselves, to one another, and to the planet.  
Confident in the mercy of the One  
who made us and saved us,  
let us confess our sin to God and to another.  
Please join me in the prayer of confession.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** –Liturgist

Cross

**God of life,  
You created us in your image  
to care for one another and for all creation.  
Forgive us for turning away from you,  
ignoring the needs of our neighbors  
and the cries of the earth.  
As the sun brings light and warmth to this earth,  
make us signs of your grace,  
through Christ, our light and life, we pray.**

(Silence for personal confession)

**WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

**HYMN 750**

"Goodness is Stronger Than Evil"

Ribbon

*Recognizing that this text arose from the years of apartheid in South Africa adds depth and resonance to its already confident language. Yet these words can also be read as a summary of Christ's death and resurrection, the true basis of our hope that good will triumph over evil.*

Goodness is stronger than evil;  
love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness;  
life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours; victory is ours,  
through God who loves us.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours,

through God who loves us.

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **JOYFUL NOISE**

"O God of Life" by Brian Schroeder, arr. Woodard

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** –Liturgist

Before we hear the scriptures read, let us pray that God's Spirit might illuminate our hearts to receive a divine word.

Gracious God, your Word is a living word.  
By your Spirit awaken us,  
that we may see and hear your presence in the world  
and in the scripture that we read today.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,  
our brother and guide. Amen.

## **THE FIRST READING** Liturgist Psalm 104:24-33 (NRSVUE) Notepad

24 O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
25 There is the sea, great and wide;  
creeping things innumerable are there,  
living things both small and great.  
26 There go the ships  
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.  
27 These all look to you  
to give them their food in due season;  
28 when you give to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.  
29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath, they die  
and return to their dust.

30 When you send forth your spirit, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the ground.

31 May the glory of the Lord endure forever;  
may the Lord rejoice in his works—

32 who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

33 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

These words are trustworthy and true. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

"Now Thank We All Our God" J. S. Bach, Linker/McFadden

#### **THE GOSPEL READING**

Luke 12:22-31 (NRSVUE)

Notepad

22 He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25 And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? 26 If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! 29 And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. 30 For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY †**

God of evolving diversity,

made known in seed and soil,  
and the wonder of animal worlds:  
free our hearts from the anxiety  
which knows only domination;  
open our being  
to learn from the life  
with which we share this earth;  
through Jesus Christ, the Lord of the harvest. Amen.

## SERMON

Jubilee Stories: The Thanksgiving Address

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Cross

**Our Father who art in heaven...** (Hymnal p. 35. We say "debts & debtors.")

## THE BAPTISM OF ALEX MIZER

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING –Liturgist

When we feel scattered, the Holy hems us in. When we feel lonely, the Holy places their hand on our shoulder. And so, as reflections of Divine Love, we do the same for each other—picking up each other's pieces, showing up gently with compassion and presence. We gather our offerings this day, that it may be so.

You can give in person or online using the QR code printed in the bulletin or on the screen.

## OFFERTORY

"On Holy Ground" Arr. John Leavitt

## \*DOXOLOGY #606

Ribbon

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Mysterious Love, we long to relax in the wonder of our own being, to feel the ways in which our life is tethered to the teeming splendor of all life. We dedicate our offerings to our inherent worthiness of wellbeing & to the truth that grief and joy can rest side by side. Amen.

**\*HYMN 15**

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

Ribbon

*Sometimes called "The Canticle of the Sun," this cosmic roll call allows human beings to give voice to all creation. One of the earliest religious poems in the Italian language, it is made even more expansive by this broad, repetitive melody with interspersed "Alleluias."*

1 All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O brother sun with golden beam,  
O sister moon with silver gleam,  
sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2 O brother wind with clouds and rain,  
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O sister water, flowing clear,  
make music for your Lord to hear.  
Sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

3 O brother fire, so warm and bright,  
chase off the shadows of the night.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Dear mother earth, who day by day  
unfolds such blessings on our way,  
sing praises! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 All who for love of God forgive,  
all who in pain or sorrow grieve,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;  
so, even in the midst of tears,  
sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
waiting to hush our final breath:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
fair is the night that leads us home.  
Sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
and worship God with humble heart.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
Sing praises! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

Reprise of "All Creatures of Our God and King"

† From *Prayers for an Inclusive Church* by Steven Shakespeare. New York: Church Publishing, 2009.

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**Assisting in Worship Today:**

Jim Buchanan – Liturgist

Whitney Dodds – Vocalist

Nan Davidson – Campanile Bell Choir Director

Ashley Woodard – Joyful Noise Director

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music & Technology

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor