

**Christ the King Sunday
November 24, 2024**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

! **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

Dennis Lesher

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.
**He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he
commanded, for a thousand generations.**

—Psalm 105:1-3, 7-8, NRSV

! **Invocation**

Dennis Lesher

Father in heaven, we give you thanks for life and for all of the experiences that life brings us. We give you thanks for joy, hope, peace, and answered prayers, but we also give you thanks in our trials, sorrows, and pain. We give thanks for our land, for the beauty of the landscape, for the riches it provides for our living, for the people and cultures among us. Above all things, we give thanks for our hope in Christ, the life and freedom that will ultimately be ours. Teach us to cherish all your gifts. Teach us also to use all these resources for the good of society and for glory to you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

! **Opening Hymn 6** *Sing Praise to God who Reigns Above*

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Dennis Lesher

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion.

For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

—Isaiah 30:15, 18, NIV

Prayer of Confession (*Responsively*)

Dennis Lesher

Loving God, we gather today, rich in blessing, somehow believing that we merit the wealth and comforts we enjoy. Forgive us, our God, for comfortably closing our eyes to the faces of the poor that stare blankly in our direction.

Lord, have mercy on us.

With bellies full of grain and meat, we offer token gestures to the hungry in our world and we feel we have done enough. Forgive us, God, for keeping a distance between “us” and “them,” for closing our ears to the cries of the hungry.

Christ, have mercy on us.

With hands tightly clasping our treasures on earth, we cannot reach out to our oppressed brothers and sisters around this world. Forgive us for clinging to our own possessions rather than to you. Unite us with hearts of thanksgiving, that we may work to ensure freedom and justice for all.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Dennis Lesher

I will sprinkle clean water upon you,
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses,
and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

A new heart I will give you,
and a new spirit I will put within you;
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.

—Ezekiel 36:25-26, NRSV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men.*

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You

All: And also with you

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.
In joy, we offer our gifts now to God.

—based on 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NRSV

Offering

Offertory

✠ Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

✠ Prayer of Dedication

All good things come from you, O God, and with gratitude we return to you what is yours. You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. All that we are and all that we have are a trust from you. And so, in gratitude for all your gifts, we offer you ourselves and all that we have, in union with Christ's offering for us. By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

✠ Preparation Song

Dayspring

Verse 1
Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true the only light,
Son of righteousness arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high be near,
Day star in my heart appear.

Verse 2
Dark and cheerless is the morn,
were it ever without Thee Joyless in the day's return,

*til thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes and warm my heart.*

*Verse 3
Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief,
Fill me radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief.
More and more thy self display,
shining to the perfect day.*

**Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word**

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4: 10-20

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly because once again you renewed your care for me. You were, in fact, concerned about me but lacked the opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself. ¹² I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. ¹³ I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴ Still, you did well by partnering with me in my hardship.

¹⁵ And you Philippians know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent gifts for my need several times. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that is increasing to your account. ¹⁸ But I have received everything in full, and I have an abundance. I am fully supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you provided—a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Sermon

*“The Secret of Being Content”
Rev. Tim Latham*

 Song of Response

My Soul Will Wait

*Verse 1
When the enemy surrounds and my heart grows faint within,
When the darkness overwhelms and my fears are pressing in,
I will trust in You, O Lord, in the silence I will wait.
I will stand upon Your Word.*

*Chorus
You're my solid rock and my salvation,
my steadfast hope that won't be shaken.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for You.*

Verse 2

*You're my stronghold and my shield
in the midst of ev'ry threat.
Though the wicked never yield,
they will vanish like a breath.
Yes, I know the outcome's sure,
satan's evil plans will fail.
In Your power I'm secure.*

Chorus

*You're my solid rock and my salvation,
my steadfast hope that won't be shaken.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for You.*

Chorus 2

*You're my comfort when I feel forsaken,
my refuge and my sure foundation.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for You.*

Verse 3

*This is love I can't explain. This is mercy unreserved.
Through Your sacrifice so great I have peace that's undeserved.
For the battle has been won and I fear no shame or loss.
Now the sting of death is gone.*

Chorus

*You're my solid rock and my salvation,
my steadfast hope that won't be shaken.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for You.*

Chorus 2

*You're my comfort when I feel forsaken,
my refuge and my sure foundation.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for You.*

Tag

*Pouring out our hearts before You, we will trust in You.
Perfect Savior, strong Defender, we will trust in You.*

Responding
We respond to God's Word

✠ Profession of Faith (In Unison)

**We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God,**

**Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.
And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.**

—Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People (*Responsively*)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

For all the times we laughed till our sides ached;
for all the times we were troubled
and friends we didn't know we had
sprang up from nowhere and ministered to us;
for all the times we could have chosen evil over good, but didn't;
for all the times we could have been hurt, but weren't;
for all the times we could have died suddenly and unprepared,
but didn't. O Lord, we thank you.

Know that the Lord is God!

**It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

For the sheer wonder of our creation, preservation, and redemption;
for the privilege of prayer, the gift of the Spirit, and the gifts of the
Spirit; for the everlasting arms beneath us,
the watchful eye above us, the friends around us,
and the trust within us; O Lord, we thank you.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!**

Give thanks to him, bless his name!

For our churches,
and all things good and godly they have done and been;
for all their saints whom we have laid to rest;

and for their little children,
who shall one day lay our bodies to rest
and carry on in our stead;
O Lord, we thank you.

For the Lord is good.

For seedtime and harvest and food enough;
for every good night's sleep and every good day's work;
for every good friend and every grand sunset;
for warm memories of the past
and the promise of an eternal tomorrow;
for eyes to see beauty, ears to hear a bird's songs,
hands to hold someone else's hands,
and someone else's hands to hold;
O Lord, we thank you.

**His steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

For all persons whose love for us is unconditional,
and in whose presence we can drop all pretense,
be ourselves, and know that we shall be accepted;
for the one who calls us long distance
and the one who calls us darling,
and the one who calls us Dad or Mom;
for the one who shall one day call us into eternity;
O Lord, we thank you.

What shall we render to the Lord for all his bounty to us?

We will offer to him the sacrifice of thanksgiving. **Amen.**

—based on Psalm 100; 116:12, 17

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses



Commission Hymn 461 *He Leadeth Me*



Benediction & Blessing



Postlude