

God's Service Sunday, November 24, 2021

Reign of Christ Sunday

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four



REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

In the leader's addition of our worship book, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, it says; "Time is a gift of God's creation. People order time in various ways, often based on the rhythms of nature. The church organizes time by the church year. It tells the story of God, who is beyond time, acting in history – above all through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

"All Sundays of the year are festivals of our Lord Jesus Christ. Every Sunday is Easter. In a profound sense, Sunday – the first day and the eighth day of the week, the weekly celebration of the day of resurrection – is the primary Christian festival."

Today is officially Christ the King Sunday or as I prefer Reign of Christ Sunday, the final Sunday of the church year. This morning through song and prayer, we will travel through this past year to hear again the story of our God. A God who comes to be with us, lives among us and grants to us new life, a new way of being human together and in loving community with each other and all of creation under the reign of one unlike any other – Christ the King. Let us take a moment now to prepare to meet our king in water, word, bread and wine this morning in God's service as we listen to our prelude.

PRELUDE "All Creatures" arr. by Ameigh

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

We begin with the opening dialogue, Psalm 93.

OPENING DIALOGUE: Psalm 93

¹The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength. The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

²**Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; you are from everlasting.**

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice; the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

⁴**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.**

⁵Your testimonies are very sure, and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

REIGN OF CHRIST READINGS AND HYMNS

In our three-year cyclical lectionary 2024 was year B, the year where our Gospel readings come almost equally from Mark and John.

Whoever wrote the Gospel according to Mark invented the genre "gospel book." It was the earliest account of Jesus' life, probably written around 60-70CE, about 40 years after the crucifixion of Jesus. Other gospels soon followed, each making significant use of Mark. Of them, Mark is the only gospel book to have an official title from its author, "The Beginning of the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1)

From its beginning, the book involves a secret, the manifestation of the presence of God in the world like seed growing secretly, like deeds of power breaking out even when people do not believe, like *yes* even when *no* has been spoken.

There is no "resurrection appearance" at the end of this book because every passage of the book is intended to be read as a resurrection appearance. The ending of Mark sends those who are reading the book back to Galilee to see him alive. And "Galilee" happens when we start to read the book.

To be in assembly, to hear the words about Jesus, his ministry, and his death, and to welcome the least ones - such is to see the Risen One. And that one, Jesus Christ, is the very presence of God.

The cross hid him from sight, numbering him among the dead. But these passages of the gospel reveal the secret: by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ is risen and active now among us and in all the world.

In Mark's gospel the heavens are torn open and the temple curtain is torn in two from top to bottom preparing the way for God to come graciously to be present where we thought God could not be: on the earth, on the cross. Come and see.

ADVENT

Our church year begins in Advent. In the northern hemisphere as the light begins to fade and the days become shorter, darkness stretches its icy fingers across the land. The nights grow longer and colder. In this chill of darkness the church year begins. We anticipate and anxiously await

the coming of a promised savior. In defiant protest of the growing darkness we light the candles of the Advent wreath and adorn our sanctuary in the blue of hope and healing. But when we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

ADVENT READINGS: Isaiah 64:1

A reading from Isaiah. ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence —

Mark 13:24-27

²⁴But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. We wait with anticipation and hope.

ADVENT HYMN “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” (ELW 240 v. 1 & 4)

1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

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CHRISTMAS

There is no Christmas Story in Mark, but the fourth evangelist, whom tradition has named "John," was a genius at transforming ordinary words into hallowed speech about God. He takes us all the way back to the beginning, before the beginning, to tell us about the Word through whom all things came into being and who comes to us now. Our sanctuary is dressed in white - this is Christmas. Our mighty king arrives as a helpless babe in a manger.

CHRISTMAS READING: John 1:1-14

A reading from John. ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not

overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CHRISTMAS HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (ELW 283 v. 1 & refrain)

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. unknown, st. 2; Public Domain.

EPIPHANY

The feast of Epiphany or "Manifestation" and the season that follows is a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people. Mark's gospel begins here with the baptism of Jesus that reveals him to be the king we await. Oh, and do you remember Israel's longing given voice by Isaiah "O, that you would tear open the heavens and come down,..."

EPIPHANY READING: Mark 1:9-11

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

EPIPHANY HYMN “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” (ELW 310 v. 1 & 2)

1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star
to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem
in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,
prophet, priest, and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest
in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine,
changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt. Public Domain.

LENT

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." On Ash Wednesday we are confronted with the stark reality of our life on earth. The purple of the season confirms that we are under no illusion as to who we are and how far we fall short when we stand before God. Lent calls us to a time of self-examination and repentance, a complete turning around. We are reminded to return to God, who is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Repentance is not a frightening appearance before an angry God, but a homecoming to one who longs to save us in the midst of our trials and fears. One who's grace, like water, flows freely always gathering at the lowest points, and pooling at the foot of the cross.

LENTEN READING: John 3:16-17

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

LENTEN HYMN “I want Jesus to Walk with Me” (ELW 325 v. 1)

1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

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HOLY WEEK

Holy Week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Scarlet washes over our sanctuary. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: In the wine and bread of communion, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

HOLY WEEK READING: Mark 15:34-39

³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

HOLY WEEK HYMN "Were You There?" (ELW 353 v. 1)

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

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EASTER

Believers have known about a garden and a woman named Eve, who the serpent deceived into seeking what she thought was deeper life only to encounter sorrowful death. The gospel of John proclaims the resurrection with a reverse narrative, magnifying chapter 20 with its opposite of Genesis 3. Now in another garden is a different woman, who, intending to encounter death, is instead met by joyful life. John chapter 20 has replaced the serpent from Genesis 3 with the risen Christ. And it has made all the difference.

EASTER READING: John 20:11-16

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me

where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

EASTER HYMN “Alleluia! Jesus is Risen” (ELW 377 v. 1 & refrain)

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

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PENTECOST

Fifty days after Easter a festive red adorns our worship space as we celebrate the birth of the church. Pentecost is here. Our Savior is no longer physically walking by our side, yet we are not fearful for we are not alone. He sends to us, a helper, his Spirit. A spirit of council and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His Holy Spirit is always with us strengthening, sustaining and sending us out into a world that so desperately needs to hear how much God loves it.

PENTECOST READING: John 15:26, 27

²⁶When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

PENTECOST HYMN “Spirit of Gentleness” (ELW 396 v. 1 & refrain)

1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

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TIME AFTER PENTECOST OR ORDINARY TIME

The Time after Pentecost is often referred to as Ordinary Time. It is the long Green Season of the church year. A season of growth and learning. Like those first disciples we stumble and struggle to discover what it is to follow Jesus in the world today. We gather together to hear and share the words about Jesus, his ministry and his death. And we are right to sing around the gospel reading for the day, "Glory to you, O Lord," and "Praise to you, O Christ." And together we see that it is the Crucified and Risen One - the very presence of God - who in the reading and in the assembly comes to us, proclaiming the nearness of the kingdom of God, healing Simon's mother-in-law and healing us, calling us his new family, stilling the storms on the ancient sea and in our lives and on and on. The cross once hid him from sight, numbering him among the dead. But Mark reveals the secret in these passages of the gospel; by the power of the Spirit, Christ is risen and active now among us and in all the world transforming the Ordinary into the Extra-ordinary.

ORDINARY TIME READING: Mark 1:14-18

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news." ¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

Revive our congregations, synods, and national church body to reflect the love, justice, and kinship of your kingdom. Raise up diverse leaders (*like Justus Falckner, Jehu Jones, and William Passavant, whom we commemorate today*) who teach and serve your people. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Nourish parched lands and bring relief to flooded places. Protect wildlife habitats and endangered species, that the chorus of creation's praise resounds with joy. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Grant wisdom to the leaders who govern, legislate, and deliberate on our behalf. Advance your nonviolent reign of justice-seeking love through their work. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated. Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration. Empower activists who advocate for change. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Remind us of your enduring love in all seasons. Guide the planning efforts of worship leaders and volunteers who usher our congregation into a meaningful Advent. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

In your eternal presence the saints of your majesty. Join our voices with theirs in praise to the one who loves us and frees us from sin. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANCE

Under Christ's reign all will have enough but even now our generous God, you provide us with abundantly more than what we need and places us as stewards of it. Remove our fear that we might trust in you, opening our own hands to share with the world the abundant goodness that flows from you. If you have abundance to share this morning as offering, raise your hand and an usher will come by to collect it. If you are joining us online you may give at

landerlutherans.org

Let us generously steward what God provides.

OFFERING MUSIC "All Creatures" (var.) arr. by Armeigh

SETTING OF THE TABLE "I Come with Joy" (ELW 482)

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup,
you offered yourself in love for the world,
and in this meal you nourish us with your life.
Fill us with your abundance,
that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger,
trusting in your name.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE (ELW p. 153)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
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 all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 153)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 153)

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died.

**Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 154)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Receive who you are; Become what you receive. Come to this table, you who are strong in faith and you who seek building up. You who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for some time. You who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who bids us to meet him here with the saints of all times and all places and there is a place set just for you saint and sinner at his table. Amen.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 154)

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you in eternal life.
Amen.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC “The King of Love” arr. by Barr

COMMUNION SONG

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,
you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink
in the body and blood of your Son.
Now send us out to labor with you,
in service to the world you have made,
and among the people you have made your home,
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick and hurting world. Anoint with a servant heart those who take your word and sacrament to our sisters and brothers in their homes/in prisons/in hospitals. Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those who feast on your body and blood and receive your words of new life. May we all recognize that we have a place and a home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God, the beginning and the end,
who has written your name in the book of life,
✠ bless and keep you in grace and peace
from this time forth and forevermore.

Amen.

REIGN OF CHRIST

Our church year reaches its climax on Reign of Christ Sunday, the final Sunday of our church year. This day we celebrate the now and not yet of our lives as Christians grasping hold of the both/and of our faith. Death and sin have been conquered and we anxiously await the day when Christ is given dominion and the world lives under his loving reign. A king nothing like an earthly king. A king wearing a crown of thorns, washing feet, riding on a donkey, healing a child, dying on a cross. Turning away from the trappings and temptations of mortal power he chose the qualities of human relationship that engender trust, sacredness, and precious regard for "the least of these." A king who locates himself not only in the heights of the heavens, but in the depth of the soil that birthed him, took him in after his death, and re-birthed him on Easter morning. His birth, death and resurrection therefore are not for the salvation just of human beings, but for the earth as well. This is the one whose return we celebrate and eagerly await that the world may be transformed under his reign.

REIGN OF CHRIST READING: Revelation 1:4b-8

^{4b}Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG “Jesus Shall Reign” (ELW 434)

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.
- 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.
- 4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
- 5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
peculiar honors to our king;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

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DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us,
go in peace to serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Clement was the third bishop of Rome. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul's letters to them. As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.

Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, died 1927

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Pro grew up in a time when the Mexican revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the wealthy. He became a Jesuit priest, and worked on behalf of the poor and homeless. Falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a government official, he was executed, but not before crying out "Long live Christ the King!"

Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.

Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748

Thursday, November 25, 2021

Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

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