

THE REIGN OF CHRIST



November 24, 2024

WELCOME, GUESTS

Welcome to all who worship with us today. We are thankful for your presence and invite you to share in “the food which endures for eternal life.”

Please sign the visitor’s book at our Welcome Center in the narthex. If you’d like to know more about us or are considering becoming a member, please complete the form found in each pew, return it to an usher or simply put it in the collection plate. There is a cry room down the stairs off the narthex where the service can still be heard. Busy-bags, children’s bulletins and magazines and are also provided in the narthex.

We’d like for you to learn more about us!

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation: We welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and we are committed to work for racial equity.



A Green Congregation: for being stewards of the earth.

In Covenant with Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin St. Louis), lcmstl.org

LAND AND PEOPLES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bethel Lutheran Church acknowledges and honors the Tribal peoples, including the Osage Nation, Quapaw, Miami, Otoe-Missouria, Kickapoo, and Illinois Confederacy among others, who were unjustly removed from their ancestral homelands on which we gather.

Bethel Lutheran Church honors the Native peoples who have cared for, and continue to care for, the lands which they first inhabited, named, and tended.

Bethel Lutheran Church recognizes that the cultural and spiritual life of our Indigenous siblings offers wisdom about living in relationship with creation and with our neighbors.

In support of our goal of being a caring, inclusive, Christ-centered community, we

- ❖ care for God’s creation
- ❖ promote the non-violence of Christ and care for those who suffer
- ❖ participate in the Spirit toward a global religious community

+ The Reign of Christ +

Lectionary 34 / The Last Sunday after Pentecost

November 24, 2024

ELW Setting Three

10 AM

The responses of the assembly appear in bold type.

“ELW” refers to Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the cranberry-colored book in the pew racks.

Standing and sitting are corporate acts of the assembly.

When the assembly stands, those who are able stand on behalf of those who cannot.

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king’s title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the “one like a human being” (Son-of-Man) given dominion in Daniel’s vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Minuet” from *Water Music Suite in D major*
Music of George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

The assembly stands for Confession and Forgiveness, which begins at the bottom of page 94 near the front of the cranberry book.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW pages 94–96

GATHERING HYMN

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing
THE FEAST IS READY

ELW # 531

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

The Canticle of Praise begins in the middle of page 140 near the front of the cranberry book.

THE CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Worthy Is Christ (This is the Feast)* ELW pages 140–141

1. High voices
2. Low voices
3. High voices
4. Low voices

ALL sing the refrain.

High voices = soprano/alto

Low voices = tenor/bass

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING

Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

The one coming with the clouds rules over all

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One who is judge will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

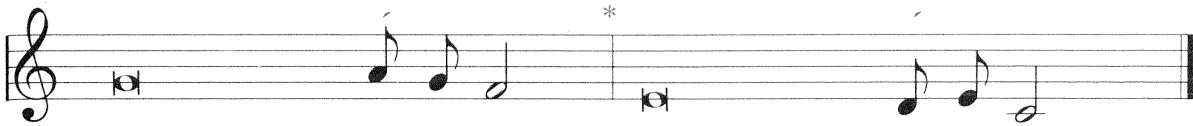
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel.

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One sat on the throne, whose clothing was white as snow, and the hair of whose head like pure wool; whose throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from the presence of the Ancient One, whom a thousand thousands served, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood in attendance. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One, before whom he was presented. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his reign is one that shall never be destroyed.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



Cantor You, O LORD, are Sovereign;
 you have put on splen- | did apparel;
 You, O LORD, have put on your apparel
 and girded your- | self with strength.

Assembly **You have made the whole | world so sure
 that it can- | not be moved;**

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

Assembly **The waters have lifted up, O LORD,
 the waters have lifted | up their voice;
 the waters have lifted up their | pounding waves.**

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

Assembly **Your testimonies are | very sure,
 and holiness adorns your house, O LORD,
 forever and for- | evermore.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4b–8

Glory to the one who made us a dominion

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

A reading from the Book of Revelation.

Grace to you and peace from the one who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before God's throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the rulers of the earth.

To the one who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us to be a dominion, priests serving his God and Father, to Jesus Christ be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. So it is to be. Amen.

"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.

Silence for preparation precedes the gospel acclamation.

GRADUAL

At the Name of Jesus, stanza 1 only.

ELW # 416

KING'S WESTON

[This text, from Philippians 2:10–11, is the traditional Gradual for this day.]

HOLY GOSPEL

John 18:33–37

The kingdom of Christ

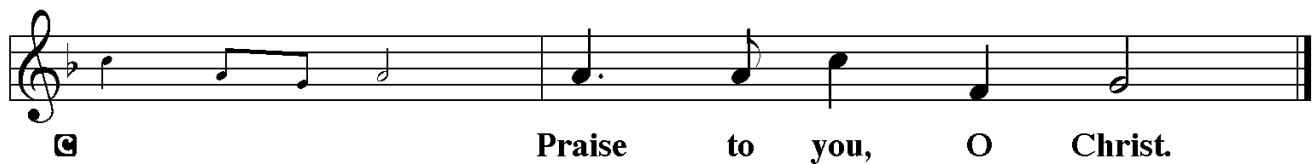
In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

The ☩ holy gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth chapter.



Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not Jewish, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Judean authorities. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

The gospel of the Lord.



The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Scott Benolkin

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands for the Hymn of the Day to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

facing page

DUKE STREET

Setting by Stephen Mager

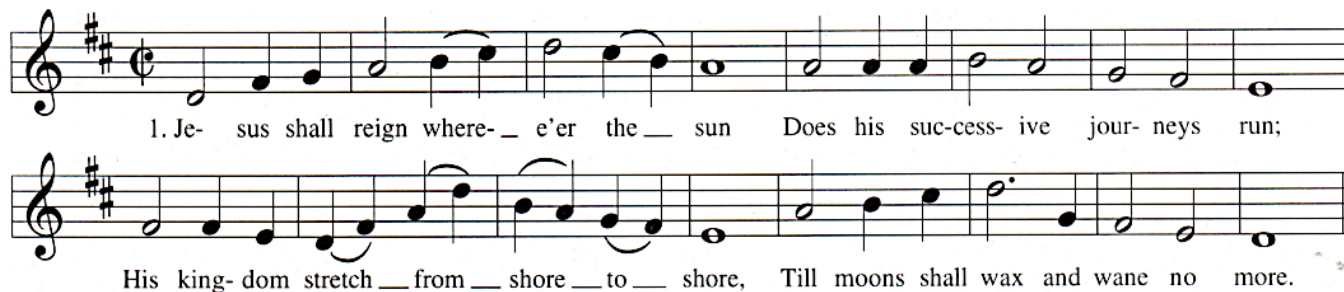
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

1. All 2. High voices 3 and 4. Choir 5. Low voices 6. All

High voices = soprano/alto Low voices = tenor/bass

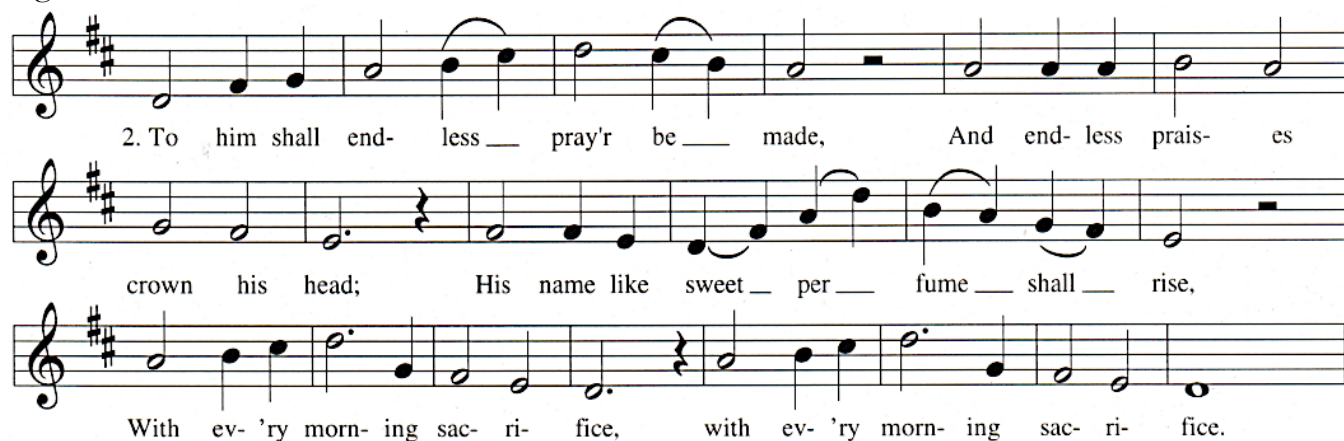
Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

1. All



1. Je- sus shall reign where- e'er the sun Does his suc-cess- ive jour- neys run;
His king- dom stretch from shore to shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2. High voices



2. To him shall end- less pray'r be made, And end- less prais- es
crown his head; His name like sweet per- fume shall rise,
With ev- 'ry morn- ing sac- ri- fice, with ev- 'ry morn- ing sac- ri- fice.

3. *Choir* 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.

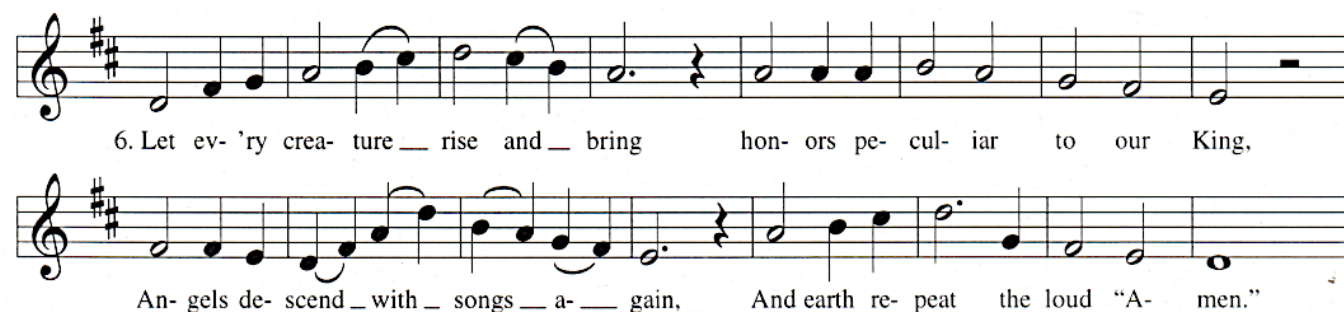
4. *Choir* Where he displays his healing pow'r,
Death and the curse are known no more.
In him the tribes of Adam boast
More blessings than their father lost.

5. Low voices



5. Bless- ings a- bound where e'er he reigns; The pris- 'ners leap to loose their chains;
The wea- ry find e- ter- nal rest, And all who suf- fer want are blest.

6. All



6. Let ev- 'ry crea- ture rise and bring hon- ors pe- cul- iar to our King,
An- gels de- scend with songs a- gain, And earth re- peat the loud "A- men."

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer.

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

After each petition:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Lisa, Joan, Annie, Liam, Marilyn, Harvey, Kristina, Steve, Barbara, Eric, Kathy, Katrina, Joe, Bill, JoAnn, Daniel, Angie, Wayne, Will, Tom, Charlene, Richard, Steve, Jack, Rudolph, Brittany, Mary, David, Julie, Nick, Meredith, Joe, Michael, Marcie, and Anne-Marie.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

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.

THE PEACE *The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. After greeting one another, the assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Please see the schedule and written announcements on the last inside pages.*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

An offering is gathered, and the table is set.

OFFERING ANTHEM

motet: *Exsultate justi*

Music of Lodovico Grossi da Viadana (ca. 1560-1627)
(sung in Latin)

*Exsultate, justi, in Domino;
Rectos decet collaudatio.
Confitemini Domino in cithara,
In psalterio decem chordarum psallite illi.
Cantate ei canticum novum,
Bene psallite ei in vociferatione.
Exsultate, justi, in Domino;
Rectos decet collaudatio.*

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye just;
Praise is fitting for the upright.
Give praise to the Lord on the harp;
Sing to God with the ten-stringed psaltery.
Sing to God a new canticle,
Sing well unto God with a loud voice.
Rejoice in the Lord, O ye just;
Praise is fitting for the upright.

[Psalm 33:1-3]

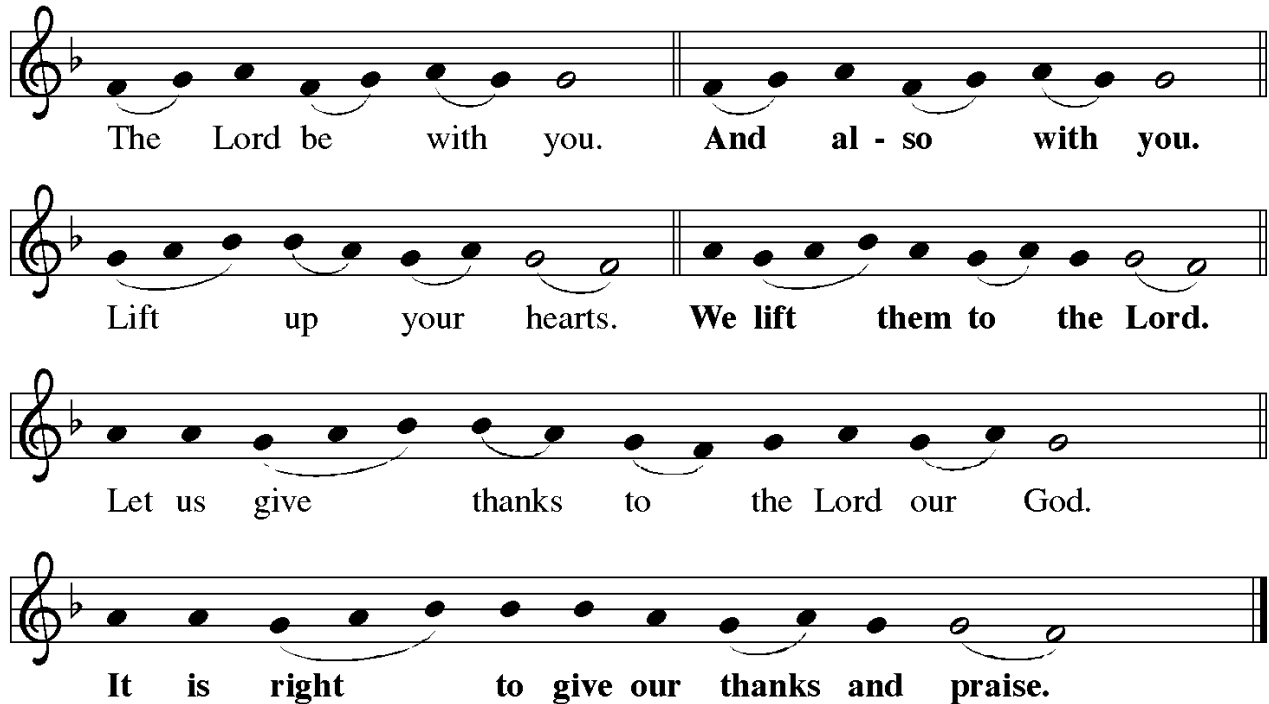
OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands. The assisting minister leads the offering prayer.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Believing in the real presence of Christ in the holy meal, this church practices Eucharistic hospitality.
All are welcome at God's table.*

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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 ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, as you have made us able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to ☩ bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

The Great Thanksgiving concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The presiding minister invites the assembly to Christ's table, where all are welcome.

Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

The assembly is seated.

We invite all persons to share in Holy Communion. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. The silver chalices contain wine. In the individual cups, wine is clear; grape juice is a rose color. For sanitary reasons, we do not practice self-intinction: please do not dip the bread into the chalice. Gluten-free wafers are available. If any need to commune under one element (only the bread or only the wine/juice), know that the fullness of the sacrament is present in the one element.

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)

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.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

“Lentement” [Siciliana]
from *Water Music Suite in D major*
Music of George Frideric Handel

COMMUNION ANTHEM

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful
Music of Christopher Tye (ca. 1505-1572)
Chorister at King’s College; Choirmaster at Ely Cathedral

O Jesus, King most wonderful,	May ev’ry heart confess thy name,
Thou Conqueror renowned,	And ever thee adore,
Thou Sweetness most ineffable,	And seeking thee, itself inflame
in whom all joys are found!	To seek thee more and more!

Thee may our tongues forever bless,
Thee may we love alone,
and ever in our lives express
The image of thine own!

[Bernard of Clairvaux [12th c.], tr. Edward Caswall]

The assembly stands for the Postcommunion.

POSTCOMMUNION

Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise
THINE

ELW # 826

1. High voices 2. Low voices 3. Choir 4. All 5. All

High voices = soprano/alto Low voices = tenor/bass

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads the 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

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

The King Shall Come

ELW # 260

CONSOLATION

Prelude by Theodore Beck (1929–2003)

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Alla Hornpipe” from *Water Music Suite in D major*
Music of George Frideric Handel

* * *

Music for the Feast of Christ the King: Today we acclaim Christ as both Judge and Redeemer. In this day and age, many are inclined to view the pomp of kings and queens as a quaint anachronism. However, for Christians this *kingship* no longer implies the mere autonomy of a temporal ruler; rather, it expresses the majesty of God in creation, in which, by divine grace, we all share. Christ's *kingship* is inextricably bound up with his *priesthood*, and because of our baptismal anointing we share in this as well. Christ is our High Priest and King by virtue of his death on the Cross. Thus, the Cross, once a symbol of ignominy, is both a royal throne and an altar of sacrifice, by which our Lord achieved his very kingship over death. It is this glorious majesty that we celebrate today.

Our Hymns and the Scripture: The Church is blessed with a beautiful repertoire of hymns firmly rooted in the inspired word of the Bible, and the Christian apostolic tradition. This is particularly evident in our hymnody for today's worship.

Our **Hymn of Praise** is Richard Hillert's setting of the Revelation canticle, a resounding echo of Christ's Easter feast of victory – and a foretaste of the feast to come.

Our **Gradual Hymn** (ELW #416) proclaims emphatically the sentiments of Philippians 2:10–11: “At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.”

The **Hymn of the Day** is actually entitled *Fantasia on Duke Street*, in reference to its stirring hymn tune. The text, by English cleric and hymnist, Isaac Watts (1674–1748), paraphrases the words of Psalm 72, a paean of praise to the Messianic King. This morning's setting, with its stylish Baroque trumpet *ritornello* and organ *fugue*, is an homage to **George Frideric Handel** (1685–1759). The work was composed on commission in 2011 by Bartlett United Methodist Church (Memphis, TN), to honor its organist of many years, Karen Strawhecker (who today still serves Bartlett UMC).

Our **Closing Hymn** (ELW #260) gives us a glimpse of Advent, the coming season of patient expectation for the Messianic Kingdom and the benevolent and merciful reign of Christ. Even the regular fixtures of our Eucharistic worship, the **Sanctus** (Isaiah 6:3; Psalm 118:25–26) and the **Agnus Dei** (John 1:29), are messianic in significance.

This morning's instrumental music is by **Handel** himself. Born in 1685 in the German city of Halle, Handel studied opera and the cantata in Italy, and later took up residence in London, where he became a naturalized English citizen. He spent much of his career in the service of royalty and the aristocracy, and his *Water Music* of 1717, from which our music is excerpted, was composed for the English King George I – who, incidentally, was also from Germany! This music is played today in transcription.

These hymns, acclamations, and voluntaries are no mere pompous royal fanfares, but are proclamations of the great promise of Christ's majesty and glory, as prophesied in Scripture.

IN OUR PRAYER CONTINUALLY

We pray for **Lisa McCauley-Salazar** (sister of Mark Scharff), who has been in the hospital.

We pray for **Joan Waggaman** (cousin of Dr. Mager), who entered hospice care.

We pray for **Annie Tucker** (daughter of Ashley and DJ Tucker and granddaughter of Pete Hayes), who is recovering from foot surgery.

We pray for pain relief for **Liam Connolly**, who has ongoing back pain.

We pray for **Marilyn Dichsen** (friend of Laura Roth), who is undergoing cancer treatment.

We pray for **Harvey Gerler** (cousin of Sharon King), who has leukemia.

We pray for **Steve** (brother of Mike Grupe), who is recovering from surgery.

We pray for **Kristina Stierholz**, who broke her ankle.

We pray for **Barbara Mayes** (family of the Lights), who received a difficult diagnosis.

We pray for **Eric Townsley**, who has been ill.

We pray for **Kathy Fangmann** (cousin of Deb Grupe), who is undergoing treatment for mantle cell lymphoma.

We pray for **Katrina Wong** (friend of the Kennedys), who continues immunotherapy treatment.

We pray for **Joe Collman** (friend of Roy Ledbetter and Tom Dewey), who is in hospice care.

We pray for **Bill Vaughan**, who is recovering from a broken neck.

We pray for **JoAnn Foote** (mother of Cindy Gross), who is in hospice care.

We pray for **Daniel Cierpiot**, (friend of Dr. Mager), who had major surgery for a brain tumor.

We pray for **Angie Brlas** (cousin of Sylvia Titgemeyer), who is going through rehab.

We pray for **Wayne Grupe** (brother of Mike Grupe), who is diagnosed with both Alzheimer's and Lewy Body Dementia.

We pray for God's guidance and peace for the **Grenda family** during a difficult time for their son **Will**. Heidi and Dave Grenda are dear friends and former members of Bethel.

We ask for continued prayers for **Tom Dewey** as he's undergoing immunotherapy treatments for a recurring health condition.

We pray for **Charlene Reimann** in her time of need.

We pray for **Richard Jones**, help in seeking renewed living arrangements and employment.

We pray for **Steve Bristol** (father of Christian, Heather, and Zachary), who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. We pray for comfort, strength and support for him and his family.

We pray for **Jack Williamson** (father of Jennifer Williamson), who has dementia.

We pray for God's comfort and peace for **Rudolph Mueller**, who is now under hospice care.

We pray for **Brittany** (niece of Ann and Bob Mottl) for her continued healing.

We pray for God's comfort and strength to be with **Mary Baker Findley** (sister of Vicki Baker Lottes) with stage 4 cancer and her husband **David Findley**, who has Alzheimer's.

We pray for **Julie Murthy** (cousin of Emily Pelcak) as she starts her battle with cancer.

We pray for strength and wisdom for **Nick Peppes** (colleague of Gail Heyne Hafer), who is facing personal challenges.

We pray for **Meredith Sallee** (sister of Katy Koontz) during her treatment for cancer.

We pray for **Joe Whelan** (stepson to Tim Gutknecht), who is dealing with a genetic condition.

We pray for **Michael Moentmann**, who lives with chronic illness.

We continue our prayers for **Marcie Dowell** as she lives with a heart condition.

We pray for **Anne-Marie Bogdan** (sister of Nathan Schroeder) as she lives with long-standing health conditions. May God's comfort and strength be with her and her family..

Announcements

Advent Dinners

There will be an Advent dinner on Wednesday, December 11, and Wednesday, December 18, at 6:00 PM prior to the 7:00 PM worship service. There will NOT be a dinner on Wednesday, December 4. For planning purposes, please sign-up on the sign-up sheets in the narthex or email/call the church office, if you are going to attend, by the Sunday prior to the dinner. However, you are welcome to attend, even if you don't sign up.

Advent Party

Sunday, December 1, 4 – 7 p.m. All households are invited to the Walker home (715 N Spoede Rd) to celebrate the season of Advent with good friends, food, carols, and cookies for the kids to decorate. Bring an app, snack, or dessert to share if you wish. Please text your RSVP to Marie so they can be prepared with food: 314-443-4667.

Caring for Our Neighbors

We continue to collect food for Good Ground Pantry along with cleaning supplies (easy-to-carry sizes) for God's Helping Hand. See the poster on the bulletin board for items needed, or grab a bag with a list attached.

God's Helping Hand – Thanksgiving Meal – Thank You

Twenty-three Thanksgiving meals were delivered to God's Helping Hand to distribute in the Ville. We are grateful and blessed for the generous community at Bethel that participated in providing the meals.

Bethel Lost and Found

Lost anything recently? Please check out the Lost and Found on the glass table across from the Bethel office - there are prescription eyeglasses, a crock pot, and other items that we hope can find their original home!

Christmas Giving Tree for God's Helping Hand Families

Bethel has adopted two families through God's Helping Hand to provide Christmas gifts for their families.

The Giving Tree is located in the Narthex.

- ❖ Choose an ornament from the Giving Tree with a gift suggestion for a family member.
- ❖ Sign your name/contact information by the number you have taken on the signup sheet.
- ❖ Wrap the gift and attach the ornament.
- ❖ Return the gifts to Bethel by Sunday, December 8, by noon.

If you have questions, contact Deborah Bohlmann at deborah.bohlmann@gmail.com or Debbie Kennedy at ptkdkk@gmail.com



Peace Vigil at Bethel on the evening of November 24, 2014.
Map of St. Louis City and County, with votive lights.

Praying for peace in our community and in the world in the wake of the killing of Michael Brown, Jr., on August 9, 2014; the announcement on November 24, 2014, that the officer who shot Michael Brown would not be indicted; and area protests of systemic racism and systemic violence.

SCHEDULE

bethelstl.org/events

SUN	11/24	The Reign of Christ
	8:45 AM	Christmas Drama Rehearsal and Adult Forum
	10 AM	Holy Communion
TUE	11/26	
	7 AM	Bible Study (offsite)
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
WED	11/27	
	7 PM	Holy Communion <i>Thanksgiving Eve</i>
SAT	11/30	
	9 AM	Bethel Work Day (winter preparation; raking leaves; cleaning woodwork)
SUN	12/1	The First Sunday of Advent
	8:45 AM	Christmas Drama Rehearsal and Adult Forum
	10 AM	Holy Communion
	4 PM	Advent Party at the Walker Home
TUE	12/3	
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
WED	12/4	
	7 PM	Advent Vespers (Evening Prayer) <i>Abendmusik I</i>
SUN	12/8	The Second Sunday of Advent
	8:45 AM	Christmas Drama Rehearsal and Adult Forum
	10 AM	Holy Communion
TUE	12/10	
	7 AM	Bible Study (offsite)
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
WED	12/11	
	6 PM	Advent Dinner
	7 PM	Advent Vespers (Evening Prayer) <i>Abendmusik II</i>
SAT	12/14	
	10 AM	Greening of the Church (hang wreaths and garlands)
	3 PM	Christmas Drama Dress Rehearsal
SUN	12/15	The Third Sunday of Advent
	8:45 AM	Christmas Drama Rehearsal and Adult Forum
	10 AM	Holy Communion, with Christmas Drama

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son-of-Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

Jeremiah 33:14–16

A righteous branch springing up from David

Psalms 25:1–10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

Strengthen hearts of holiness for the coming of the Lord

Luke 21:25–36

Be alert for the coming of the Son-of-Man



To make an offering electronically, go to bethelstl.org/give

Cover Art: *Christ Pantocrator*, Saint Catherine’s Monastery, Sinai, 6th century. This depiction of Christ in majesty (the Greek *pantocrator* means “ruler of all”) is the oldest known surviving image of our Lord. There is an intentional asymmetry in the image, in which the right hand is raised in benediction, the left holds the the Book of the Word. Some commentators suggest these contrasting facets of the image represent Christ’s humanity (which blesses) and his divinity (which gives the Law). Alternatively, these contrasts may simply represent the duality of body and spirit.

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*Have Something for the Bethel Connection, Bulletin, Website, Narthex Information Board, or Facebook?
Email it to submissions@bethelstl.org by 9 AM Monday morning.*

SERVING TODAY

Preacher & Celebrant	Pastor Scott Benolkin
Assisting Minister	Silas Johnson
Lectors and Communion Assistants	Malinda Walter Jessica White Ruth Meitzen-Dick
Musicians	Dr. Stephen Mager, organ The Bethel Chancel Choir
Ushers	Anne Siebert Matt Kuhlmann
Audio-Visual Engineers	Claire Benolkin Brittany Upchurch



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Office: (314) 863-3112
Pastoral Emergencies: (614) 446-9693
LuMin Pastor: (314) 636-3202

The Rev. Scott K. Benolkin (he/him), Pastor, pastor.scott@bethelstl.org
Stephen Mager, DM, Organist and Music Director
The Rev. Tina Reyes (she/her/ella), Campus Pastor, LuMin St. Louis, pastor.luminstl@gmail.com
Eric Townsley, Custodian, custodian@bethelstl.org
Anna Burkemper, Church Administrator, office@bethelstl.org

*Have a prayer request? Email it to prayers@bethelstl.org anytime.
Note that the information you send to this address will get shared with a number of people who will be praying for you as well as the Sunday Holy Communion bulletin.*

At the Name of Jesus



1 At the name of Je - sus ev - 'ry knee shall bow,
 2 At his voice cre - a - tion sprang at once to sight,
 3 Hum - bled for a sea - son, to re - ceive a name
 4 In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 5 Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain



ev - 'ry tongue con - fess him king of glo - ry now.
 all the an - gel fac - es, all the hosts of light,
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came,
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.
 on the clouds of glo - ry, with his an - gel train;



It is God's good plea - sure we should call him Lord,
 thrones and dom - i - na - tions, stars up - on their way,
 faith - ful - ly he bore it spot - less to the last;
 Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,



who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 all the heav'n - ly or - ders in their great ar - ray.
 brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed.
 let his will en - fold you in its light and pow'r.
 and our hearts con - fess him king of glo - ry now.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817–1877

Music: KING'S WESTON, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Music from *Songs of Praise*, © Oxford University Press 1925.

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Thine the Amen



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929
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The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone-some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816