

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Holstein, IA November 23, 2025 9:00 AM
Christ the King Sunday

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

GATHER

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Psalm 46

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**
⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰ **"Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."**
¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Song of Praise

He is Exalted

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high. I will praise Him.
He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise His name!
He is the Lord. Forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!

He Is Exalted, Paris, 1985 Straight Way Music, CCLI #833795

Confession and Forgiveness

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

For times when we forget about you,

Forgive us, O God.

When we are tempted to think we are self-sufficient,

Forgive our sin, O God.

When we pull ourselves away from life and the ones we love,

Heal our brokenness, O God of life.

When we find all hope to be gone and the future very dark,

Restore us with your Spirit, Creator God, and put within us a new attitude that springs from your gift of eternal life. Amen.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I speak his word to you:

I am the Living Bread from heaven - if you eat from me you will never die.

I am the Water of Life - if you drink from me you will never thirst again.

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life - if you come to me you will have life and have it abundantly.

These words of Jesus are for us and for all time. We are loved with an everlasting love. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus. Our sin is forgiven.

Amen!

Opening Song

Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see You, I want to see You;

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see You, I want to see You.

To see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory;
Pour out Your pow'r and love as we sing, "holy, holy, holy."

(Repeat)

Holy, holy, holy; holy, holy, holy;
Holy, holy, holy; I want to see You.

(Repeat)

Baloche, ©1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI License #833795

Prayer of the Day

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.

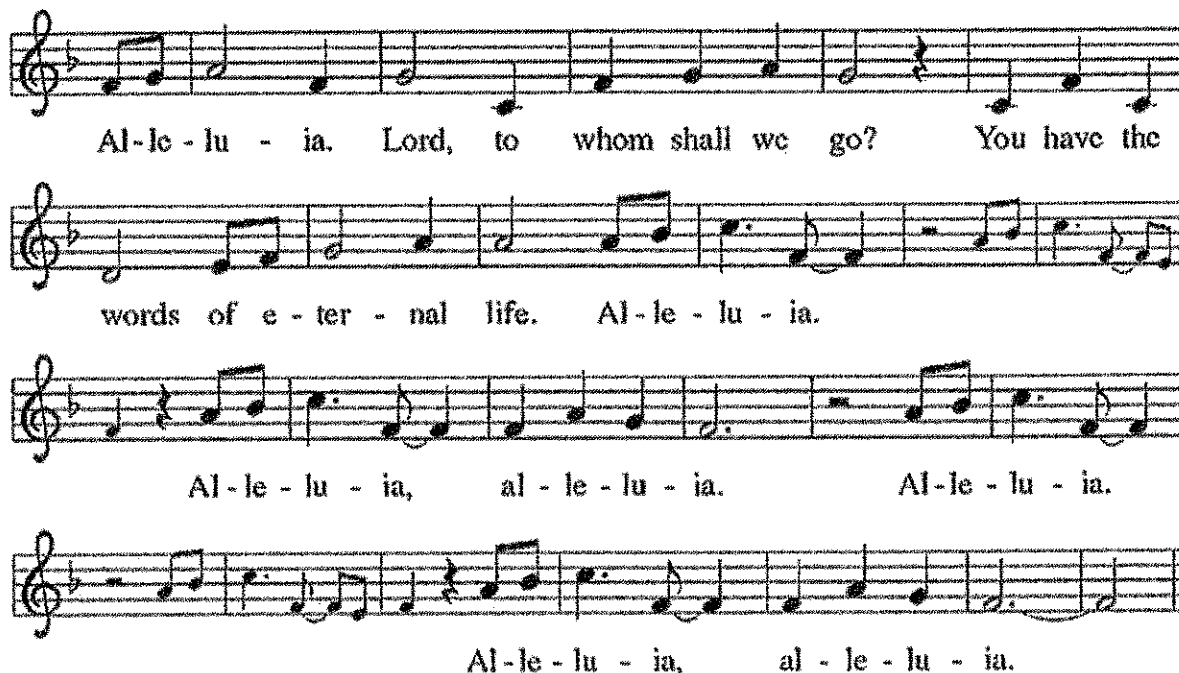
¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel Alleluia



Al-le - lu - ia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Luke 23:33-43

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 23rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"

⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message Vicar Millie Anderson

Hymn of the Day ***Let Streams of Living Justice*** #710

Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.

For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.

Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language; we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way - the path untried;
your truth - the heart of stranger; your life - the Crucified.

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Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 the People

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

MEAL

Children's Offering / Offering

Offering Prayer

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

It is indeed right...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of all creation,
Heav'n and earth are filled with you, God of our salvation.

Blessed is the king who comes to sanctify us.
Praises let us sing: "Hosanna in the highest."

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of all creation,
Heav'n and earth are filled with you, God of our salvation.

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Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

Distribution

****Distribution of the Sacrament****

*All who trust in Christ's word are welcome to the table of this holy supper,
where our Lord is truly present, offering his gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.
Please tell the server if you desire grape juice as an alternative to wine,
or if you require a gluten-free wafer.*

Please join us in singing:

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing #531

The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin.
The gates of heav'n are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.

Refrain: Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight.
Come and revel in heaven's love and light. Take your place at the table of the King.
The feast is ready to begin; the feast is ready to begin.

Tables are laden with good things; oh, taste the peace and joy he brings.
He'll fill you up with love divine; he'll turn your water into wine.

Refrain

The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the poor his paradise.
Now hear all heav'n and earth applaud the amazing goodness of the Lord.

Refrain

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Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

st. 1, 2, 4

#712

Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.

Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.

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Prayer After Communion

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of
heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your
Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and
embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free,

✠bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Closing Song

Beautiful Savior

st. 1, 4

#838

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Selss, 1823-1904
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Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Worship Participants

Ministers:	All the members
Vicar:	Emily Anderson
DYME:	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist:	Sharen Borchers
Pianist:	Kris Kistenmacher
Lector:	Amy Peuse
Deacons:	Justin Georg and Braden Else
Greeters:	Dave & Liz Kistenmacher
Acolytes:	Lincoln Rasmus and Beau Butcher
Video Recorder:	Lex Jacobson
Coffee Hosts:	Deb & Thad Bagenstos Darlene & Laurence Clausen

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, November 23 ~ Christ the King Sunday

9:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 AM	Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 AM	Sunday School
11:00 AM	Private Fellowship Hall/Kitchen Rental

TUESDAY, November 25

6:30 PM	Painting Through Liturgy with Vicar Millie
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THURSDAY, November 27 ~ Thanksgiving Day

12:30 PM	Thanksgiving meal and fellowship
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SUNDAY, November 30 ~ First Sunday in Advent

9:00 AM	Worship
10:00 AM	Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 AM	Sunday School

Confession and Forgiveness, Plaintalk Before God: the Language of Worship
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