

Service of Holy Communion

November 21, 2021 Christ the King/Thanksgiving

PRELUDE

"Come and Thank Him" JeanShafferman

One Voice

WELCOME

PRELUDE

"Gratitude"

Benjamin William Hastings/ Michael Brandon Lake/ Dante Bowe

One Voice

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor.

We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger. We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy. Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send, and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways, and free us to serve those in need. Amen.

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for ✝ Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts. Yours is the kingdom of God.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *"Forever"*

Verse 1

Give thanks to the Lord

Our God and King

His love endures forever

For He is good He is above all things

His love endures

Verse 2

With a mighty hand
And an outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

Pre-Chorus

Sing praise sing praise

Chorus

Forever God is faithful
Forever God is strong
Forever God is with us
Forever forever

Verse 3

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever
Sing praise sing praise

CCLI Song # 3148428
Chris Tomlin
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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.

HYMN OF PRAISE *“Give Thanks”*

Verse

Give thanks with a grateful heart
 Give thanks to the Holy One
 Give thanks because He's given
 Jesus Christ His Son
 (repeat)

Chorus

And now let the weak say I am strong
 Let the poor say I am rich
 Because of what the Lord has done for us
 And now let the weak say I am strong
 Let the poor say I am rich
 Because of what the Lord has done for us

Verse (x1)

Ending

Give thanks

CCLI Song # 20285
 Henry Smith
 CCLI License # 11534117

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.***THE WORD****FIRST READING:** *Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14*

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.

⁹As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹³As 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 and was presented before him. ¹⁴To 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 kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: *Psalms 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 can-not be moved.

²Ever 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.

⁴Mightier 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 for-evermore.

SECOND READING: *Revelation 1:4b-8*

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.

^{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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Sing Alleluia”

Sing Alleluia to the Lord. Sing Alleluia to the Lord.

Sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia to the Lord. (*repeat*)

GOSPEL READING: John 18:33-37

The Holy Gospel according to John, the eighteenth chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

³³Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷Pilate 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

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

We come with thankful hearts, today, to worship God, to express gratitude for the many ways God sustained our lives, led us through hard times, loved us at all times, and given us more than we'd ever thought to ask for. This coming Thursday is Thanksgiving, and I am glad that soon it will be the day set aside each year especially for giving thanks.

I need this Thanksgiving day, not simply to spend with family (although I love that aspect of the day) and not only to stuff myself with turkey, mashed potatoes, squash casserole, and pie... but to focus for twenty-four hours or more, on thankfulness, on the things that are right with the world, on the great beauty around me, on the countless wonderful people in my life, on how God always brings goodness and life out of pain and chaos and loss. I'm ready to pay attention to and lift up the abundant good there is in this world.

We are all too aware of the bad news. It's real and it takes a toll. Yesterday we had two funerals here at Shepherd King. Two people who were well-loved, whose families will now gather on Thursday without them, were laid to rest and entrusted into the everlasting care of God. We believe they are receiving new, eternal life, through Jesus Christ, but still, it's painful, disorienting, and kinda' frightening when people we love, die.

And unless we don't listen to or read the news in any form: paper, magazine, TV, radio, Facebook, podcasts, internet sites and searches... you and I are constantly bombarded with everything that's wrong in the world. At night, on local channels we hear about someone who's been stabbed or shot, or in a terrible car wreck, or someone who's been arrested for domestic violence or child abuse...night after night after night. World news assaults us with the latest updates on political turmoil at home, combative passengers on airplanes, wars in one place, terrorist strikes in another, and damage caused by natural disasters. We get our fill of bad news.

Then here comes today's gospel reading -- "gospel" which means "good news," and there's bad stuff going on. Jesus has been arrested and brought before governor Pilate, who is well known for his cruelty to subordinates like Jewish people. Jesus has been charged with claiming to be a king. His hands are cuffed - or tied

behind his back -- his friends have deserted him, and he's surrounded by armed guards. It's not looking good.

Until the two men start talking, and what we see in John's gospel – maybe not in the other gospels, but here – is that Jesus is unfazed and calm – completely overmatched in terms of power – yet not afraid.

“Are you king of the Jews?” Pilate asks.

“Is that your question, or did someone suggest it to you?” Jesus says.

“I'm not a Jew,” Pilate replies. “Your own people handed you over. What have you done?”

“If my kingdom was from this world, my followers would be fighting to save me, right? That's how this world operates. But, no, my kingdom is not from here,” Jesus says.

“Aha!” Pilate says. “You admit you're a king.”

“You say I'm a king,” says Jesus. “I came to witness to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth hears my voice.”

Jesus is in a tough spot, but he's not giving an inch. In fact, even though Pilate can have Jesus killed -- and will soon do just that -- somehow, it's clear that Jesus is in charge here, not Pilate. Jesus has the real authority; Jesus is the genuine king, and the outcome of all this, will be according to Jesus' plan, not Pilate's.

Which means that, Pilate with his crucifixion, terrorists with their bombs, criminals or vigilantes with their guns, even diseases and earthquakes and plane crashes that crush and kill... get to have their say, but then must give way, are giving way already, to the everlasting kingdom of love and hope and truth and neighborliness and joy, where Jesus alone rules as sovereign forever.

Where there is bad news, Jesus brings better news. Where there's dying, Jesus brings life. When we're exhausted, Jesus lies us down in green pastures to rest. When all we've heard is everything that's wrong with the world, Jesus lifts our faces to see how blue the sky is, how lightly the brown and yellow leaves flutter on the breeze. Jesus lets our ears hear laughter from down the street, the rumble of a train, the faint strains of a marching band from the stadium across the way. We notice breath filling our lungs, releasing, and filling again. All is not lost. The world is not forsaken. God is with us; the beauty, the goodness around us, shout-out God's redeeming presence.

This is not a fairytale gospel reading. In facing Pilate, Jesus is facing his executor. The nails pounded into his flesh will be real. The agony and pain in his body will be real. His dying will be real. But that will not be all. Then will come his rising, bringing a new kingdom where brutality and condemnation and rejection and suffering and death are no more. No more bad news there, only good news. No more divisions and blaming, attacking and despising each other; we'll live as brothers and sisters, as true neighbors in friendship and peace.

We can start living that way now – a modest start – by taking note of what we have to be thankful for. I'm going to ask you, in a moment, to write down 5 to 10 things, specific things, for which you are deeply thankful. They can be big things, little things, personal to your life or affecting the larger world – things you are truly thankful for.

Look around you. What or who do you see? Think back on the last few days, who was there, where did you go, what did you eat, what happened? What lies ahead – do you have any plans, any hopes or dreams? *(pause)*

Take a couple of minutes now, and write down 5 to 10 things you are deeply thankful for. I'll wait. I'm going to ask Paula to play a little piano music for us. *(interlude)*

Okay, have you got your five to ten things, or however many you wrote down? I've got mine here. Now let's give them to God, in thankfulness and praise for God's love poured out for us, day after day, in more ways than we can count.

Receive our grateful thanks, O God. Accept our thanks and praise!

You can tuck your paper in your pocket or purse, or put it in the offering plate - whatever you prefer. Your thanks have been made known to God. May you, in turn, receive God's peace and joy.

Hymn of the Day “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

- 1 Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide

for our wants to be supplied.
 Come to God's own temple, come,
 raise the song of harvest home.

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

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

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.

The assembly stands.

NICENE CREED

With the whole Church let us confess our faith.

**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 THE PEOPLE

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for preachers, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers who carry your forgiveness and love to the world. Fill their words and actions with compassion and kindness so that your truth will shine. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things yearning to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the

future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions that benefit all. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the well-being of others, especially ministries in our community: Christian Assistance Ministries, SAMM ministries, Lutheran Immigration and Refuge Services, and Haven for Hope. Renew them in their work. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for those prevented by illness or disability from worshiping with us in person, and for all who are sick and suffering. Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, receive the petitions of your gathered people....

God, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to be our beginning and our ending. We give thanks for those whose lives have given us a glimpse of Jesus' reign of justice and peace. Empower us to join their witness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministry of Jesus at Shepherd King. If you wish to give to Shepherd King, there is a donate button on our website - www.skllcsa.org

THE 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. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Please have the bread and wine/juice ready for Holy Communion)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

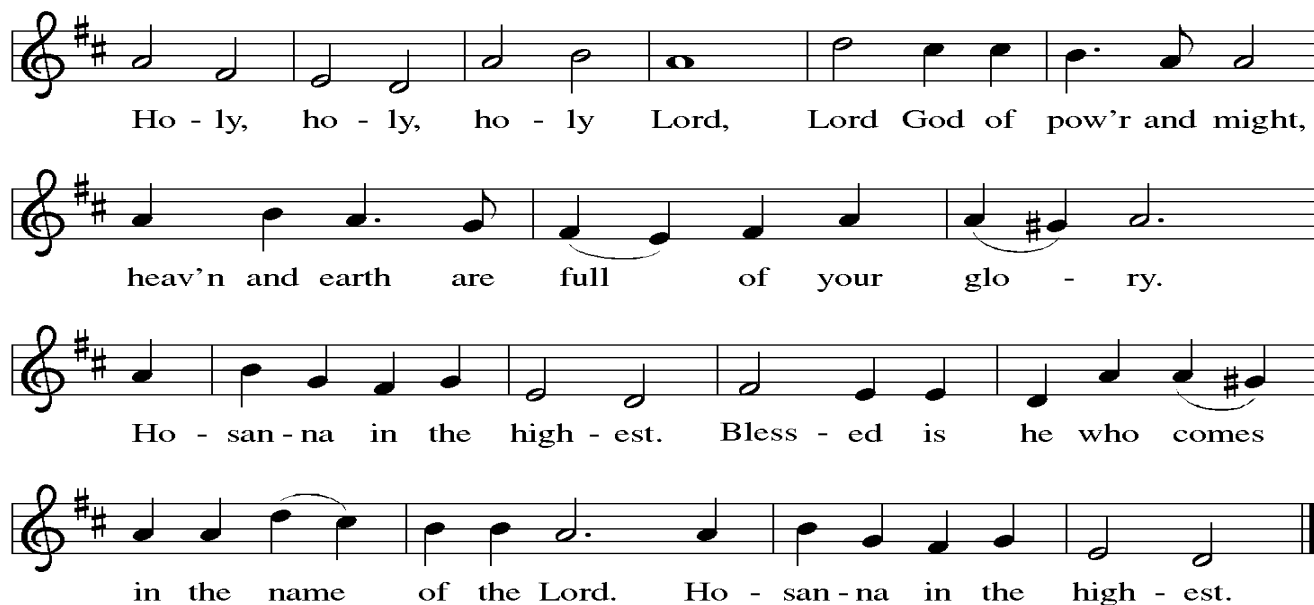
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
 al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;
 who on this day overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resur - rec - tion
 opened to us the way of ev - er - last - ing life.
 And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
 we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The LORD is our God, the LORD alone: God who made heaven and earth, who flung the stars across the sky, who raised up Moses to lead Israel from bondage into freedom, who renewed his covenant through prophets and priests, and who in these last days has spoken to us by his Son. Blessed be God for the Word made flesh. Blessed be God for Jesus who ate with sinners, challenged those in power, welcomed everyone, showed the way of the kingdom, and died and rose again that we might have life. We remember...

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 in remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

A feast of love is offered here for you and for all the saints.

Take the bread and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you. (*please consume the bread*)

Take the cup and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you. (*please drink from the cup*)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We were scheduled to have confirmation class today, but since two of our three students could not make it, we have postponed class until next week.

Hope all of you have a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday this weekend. The church office is closed Wednesday at noon through Saturday.

Rachel Circle meets here tomorrow evening.

The season of Advent, four weeks leading up to Christmas, begins next Sunday.

We're glad so many of you tune in to worship with Shepherd King on Sundays. Please call us at 210-344-5881, if you're in need of prayer, a listening ear, or anything else.

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.

CLOSING HYMN *"The Blessing"*

Verse

The Lord bless you
 And keep you
 Make his face shine upon you
 And be gracious to you
 The Lord turn his
 Face toward you
 And give you peace

Chorus

Amen
 Amen
 Amen

Bridge

May his favor
 Be upon you
 And a thousand generations
 And your family
 And your children
 And their children
 And their children

Bridge

May his presence
 Go before you
 And behind you
 And beside you

All around you
 And within you
 He is with you
 He is with you

Bridge
 In the morning
 In the evening
 In your coming
 And your going
 In your weeping
 And rejoicing
 He is for you
 He is for you

Tag
 He is for you
 He is for you

CCLI Song # 7147007 Chris Brown | Cody Carnes | Kari Jobe | Steven Furtick CCLI License # 11534117

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

"We, Thy People Praise Thee"

Handbells
 Franz Josef Hayden/arr Erin MacGorman

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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We ask at the end of the service that you kindly throw away your bulletin, communion cup and any trash you may have in the receptacles provided at the rear of the sanctuary. Your assistance is most appreciated.