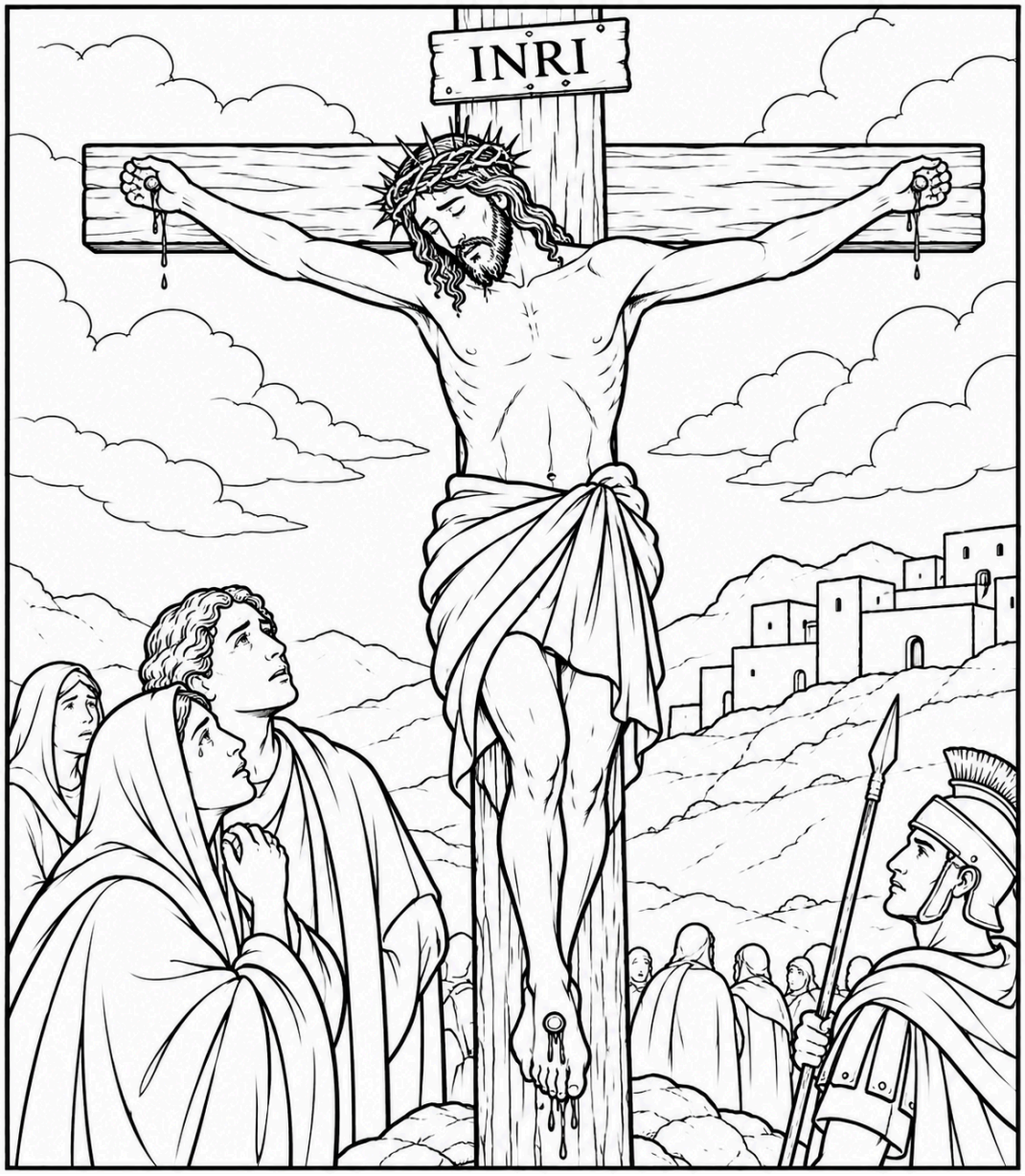
TREE OF LIFE
Christian Fellowship

“for Healing, Obedience, & Peace on Earth” (H.O.P.E.)



Christ the King II | 22 Nov 2026

“The Gospel”

Matthew 16:13—28:20

☩ The Way of Jesus Liturgy ☩

Invocation

Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth, Gen 1:1 ✦ **you created us to "serve and protect" your creation.** Gen 2:15 ✦ But we destroy your creation Rev 11:18 ✦ **through Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and violence.** Gen 3:1—4:17 ✦ So you send your Word in the flesh of your Son Jesus, John 1:14 who says, ✦ **"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has arrived! Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me!"** Matt 4:17, 16:24 ✦ And you baptize us with your Holy Spirit Acts 1:5 ✦ **so we might care for all your creation by following Jesus's Way of "faith, hope, and love."** 1 Cor 13:13

Hear what Jesus says, ✦ **"Love the Lord your Creator with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** ✦ This is the first and great command. And the second is like it: ✦ **Love your neighbor as yourself."** Matt 22:37-39

Processional Song — ***"This Is My Father's World" (Tune: LSB 856)***

♬ ***This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears, all nature sings, and round me rings, the music of all frontiers. This is my Father's world, I rest now in the shade, of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, his hand creation made.*** ♬

♬ ***This is my Father's world, the birds their chorus raise, the morning bright, the evening light, declare their maker's praise. This is my Father's world, he lives in all that's fair, in the moving grass I hear him pass, he speaks now ev'rywhere.*** ♬

♬ ***This is my Father's world, why should my heart be sad? The Lord is king—let the heavens ring. God reigns—let the earth be glad. This is my Father's world, his kingdom has come 'round, for dear to God is the earth Christ trod, it is all holy ground.*** ♬

♬ ***This is my Father's world, oh let me not forget, that though the wrong seems oh so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is my Father's world, the healing is not done, the dead will rise to the earth's surprise, heaven and earth be one.*** ♬

♬ ***This is my Father's world, I will never stand alone. In the world around he is always found, God makes his glory known. This is my Father's world, I may wander and roam, whate'er my lot, it matters not, this truly is my home.*** ♬

Christ the King Litany

O Jesus, king of all heaven and earth, ✦ **rule in our hearts and lives.**
O Jesus, king over all nations, ✦ **we are here to serve you alone.**
O Jesus, servant of all, ✦ **we thank you for your care and provision.**

Prayer of the Day

Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matt 18:20

(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is coming among us)

♬ ***We are filled with the Spirit, and we follow the Lord, We are filled with the Spirit, and we follow the Lord, And we pray that all creation may one day be restored. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*** ♬ *(GC2 728)*

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✦ **And also with you.** ✦ Let us pray. Heavenly Father,

help us to listen to the Gospel and submit to Jesus as the only Lord of all creation. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. ✝ **Amen.**

† Baptism — The Way of Faith †

Surrendering to the Creator

Jesus says, "If you hold onto your soul, ✦ **you will lose it.** ✦ But if you let go of your soul, ✦ **you will find it.** Matt 10:39 ✦ You must be born again through water and the Spirit ✦ **to enter the Creator's Kingdom."** John 3:5 ✦ Father, Son, & Holy Spirit ✦ **I surrender to you all my ✝ mind, all my ✝ heart, and all my ✝ body and ✝ soul.**

(we make the sign of the cross—touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

"Father, not my will, ✦ **but your will be done.** Matt 26:39 ✦ Father, into your hands ✦ **I commit my spirit."** Luke 23:46 ♬ ***Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev'ry part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy. ♬ Take my hands and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them go, on the Way that Jesus showed. ♬ Take my money and fam'ly, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how to love all creation now.*** ♬ *(LSB 783)*

Listening to the Creator

Jesus says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired and burdened. Take my Way upon you and learn from me, and you will find rest for your souls." Matt 11:28-29

♬ ***Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind.*** ♬ *(LSB 770)*

✝ Holy Gospel ✝ Matthew 16:13—18:35

The holy Gospel comes from Matthew. ✦ **"Those who listen will live."** John 5:25

"If you have ears, then listen!" Matt 13:9 ✦ **Lord, help us to practice your Word.** Matt 7:24

Remembering the Saints & Martyrs — Felicity of Rome
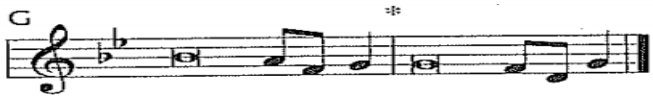
Father, we give you thanks for the great cloud of saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Felicity, the mother of seven sons, who was brought before a Roman official for refusing to renounce her faith in Jesus. Rome threatened to kill her sons if she did not comply, but she remained steadfast and stood by as each of her sons was killed. She was given the chance to recant after each death but she stayed steadfast even through her own execution in 165 AD. Help us learn from her faith and example, ✝ **Amen.**

✝ Holy Gospel ✝ Matthew 19:1—20:34

The holy Gospel comes from Matthew. ✦ **"Those who listen will live."** John 5:25

"If you have ears, then listen!" Matt 13:9 ✦ **Lord, help us to practice your Word.** Matt 7:24

Chanted Psalm — ***Psalm 55***



♬ ***My heart is in anguish | within me,***
**** the terrors of death | fall on me.***

Oh, that I had the wings | of a bird
**** so I could fly away and | be at rest.***
Destructive forces are at work in | the city,
**** violence and lies never | leave its streets.***
So cast your cares | on the Lord
**** he will always | sustain you.*** ♬

✝ Holy Gospel ✝ Matthew 21:1—22:46
The holy Gospel comes from Matthew. ✦ **"Those who listen will live."** John 5:25
"If you have ears, then listen!" Matt 13:9 ✦ **Lord, help us to practice your Word.** Matt 7:24

† Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Jesus says, "I know what you do. I search minds and hearts and I will give to each of you according to your practices. Rev 2:19, 23 Remove the log from your own eye!" Matt 7:5

(silence for reflection)

For not loving you with our whole hearts and instead placing our self, family, and nation above you, ✦ **Father, forgive us.** ✦ For not loving our neighbors and enemies as ourselves, ✦ **Father, forgive us.** ✦ Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♬ ***Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.*** ♬ *(LSB 449)*

Jesus says, "I discipline those I love. Repent! I am standing at the door knocking! Rev 3:19-20 Come out of Civilization, my people, so you will not share in its sicknesses! Rev 18:4 Not one stone will be left standing, it will all be torn down." Matt 24:2 Will you turn away from Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and violence and reaffirm your Baptism into Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love? ✦ **Yes, I renounce Civilization's Way and pledge to follow Jesus.** ✦ Jesus says, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Matt 5:7 If you forgive others, your heavenly Father will forgive you. Matt 6:14 Put your sword away. If you take up the sword, you will die by the sword." Matt 26:52 Will you release all debts and grudges that you hold against anyone—including every member of this church? ✦ **Yes, I forgive all those who have hurt me, frustrated me, or owe me anything.** ✦ Jesus says, "Your sins are forgiven. Get up and walk! Matt 9:5 Remember what you have heard and obey it!" Rev 3:3 ✝ **Amen.**

✝ Holy Gospel ✝ Matthew 23:1—25:46
The holy Gospel comes from Matthew. ✦ **"Those who listen will live."** John 5:25
"If you have ears, then listen!" Matt 13:9 ✦ **Lord, help us to practice your Word.** Matt 7:24

Song of the Day — ***LSB 512 "At the Name of Jesus"***

♬ ***At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee will bow, ev'ry tongue confess him King of earth right now. It's the Father's desire we should call him Lord, who from the beginning was the mighty Word.*** ♬

♬ ***At this voice creation sprang at once into sight. All the seas and forests, all the stars of light, all plants and animals, rivers on their way, creatures all big and small, in their great array.*** ♬

♬ ***In your hearts enthrone him, there let him subdue, all that is not holy, all that is not true. Look to him your Savior, in temptations' hour, let his will embrace you, in its light and power.*** ♬

♬ ***Christians this Lord Jesus has not come in vain, through his Father's Spirit he does truly reign. For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow, and our hearts confess him King of mercy now.*** ♬

✝ Holy Gospel ✝ Matthew 26:1—27:10

The holy Gospel comes from Matthew. ✦ **"Those who listen will live."** John 5:25

"If you have ears, then listen!" Matt 13:9 ✦ **Lord, help us to practice your Word.** Matt 7:24

Waiting on the Creator

♬ ***Our Father, bring your Rule and will to earth. Give what we need for worry-free rebirth. Bring peace among us and forgive us too, as we forgive and love in all we do.***
♬ ***Protect us from all things that will mislead. Keep us from selfishness, violence, and greed. We place our lives into your hands this day. Teach us to listen and to walk your Way. Amen.*** ♬ *(LSB 637)*

(incense is lit to symbolize our prayers ascending to God and as its smell fills this space we are reminded of his presence among us)

Jesus says, "Learn from the birds. They do not store things up and your heavenly Father feeds them. Matt 6:26 Seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness and everything you need will be given to you. Do not worry about tomorrow. Matt 6:33-34 Stay awake and pray so you will not fall into temptation. The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matt 26:41

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♬ ***Lord have mercy.*** ♬

Our Father in Heaven, may your name be holy, may your Kingdom come, and may your will be done—on Earth as in Heaven. Give us this day what we need for today. Forgive us in the same way that we forgive others. Do not abandon us when we are tempted, but pull us away from what is evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours—now and forever. ✝ **Amen.** ✦ Father, provide for us, protect us, and heal our brokenness. Especially this day we remember John Espino, Bill Mellott, and those we name in our hearts… Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that, trusting that you "work all things for the good of those who love you." Rom 8:28 *In peace, let us pray to the Lord,* ♬ ***Lord have mercy.*** ♬

✝ Holy Gospel ✝ Matthew 27:11—28:20

The holy Gospel comes from Matthew. ✦ **"Those who listen will live."** John 5:25

"If you have ears, then listen!" Matt 13:9 ✦ **Lord, help us to practice your Word.** Matt 7:24

† Communion — The Way of Love †

Sharing the Lord's Peace

Jesus says, "Before you come to the Lord's altar, ✦ **make peace with each other.** Matt 5:24

Blessed are the peacemakers, ✦ **for they will be called the Creator's children."** Matt 5:9

Offering & Musical Offering

Jesus says, "Do not store up things on earth. Matt 6:19 To be my disciple you must give up all you own. Luke 14:33 Sell your possessions, give to the poor, and you will have a storage

in heaven." Matt 19:21 We offer everything to the Lord, as we offer gifts to this church.

Pledge of Allegiance

♬ ***We come before you, Lord, to bow. We lay our lives at your feet now. All things are yours, we own nothing! Our lives are in your hands this day. Give what we need, O Lord, we pray. Please protect us, provide for us! Watch over us, ever with us, always love us!*** ♬ *(LSB 816)* Jesus says, "If you pledge your allegiance to me before others, then I will pledge my allegiance to you before my heavenly Father." Matt 10:32

✦ **I pledge allegiance to one God, the all-powerful Father, who is the Creator of Heaven and Earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

✦ **I pledge allegiance to one Lord, Jesus Christ, who is God's only Son. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He loved and he suffered. Under Pontius Pilate, he was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he was raised from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He is coming to judge the living and the dead. His Kingdom will not end.**

✦ **I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, who is the giver of life, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the baptism for forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life in the age to come. ✝ Amen.**

Thanksgiving — Εὐχαριστία

Let us give thanks to our Creator! ✦ **It is right to give him thanks and praise!**

Father, we praise and thank you, ✦ **for you provide, protect, love, and renew us and all creation!** ✦ We are grateful for all that you give, especially for… Father, we thank you for marrying yourself to us and uniting Heaven and Earth, Spirit and Flesh, and Christ and the Church through your Son Jesus! Eph 5:32 ♬ ***Joyful, joyful we adore you, Creator of all that lives! Earth and heaven praise and thank you, for your love and all you give! Fields and forests, fruit trees and birds, thunderstorms and starry skies, seas and mountains, and grazing herds, praising you who never dies!*** ♬ *(LSB 803)*

✝ Words of Our Lord Jesus ✝

Jesus says, "Whoever humbles himself is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." Matt 18:4 On the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, he humbly washed the feet of his students and enemies. Jesus said, ✦ **"I have given you an example. Do as I have done for you. Love others. In the same way I have loved you, love others. By this all will know that you are my disciples: if you love each other."** John 13:15, 34-35 ✦ During supper, Jesus then took the bread and broke it. He gave it to them, saying, "This is my ✝ body, given for you. Do the same in my memory." After supper, Jesus then took the cup and gave thanks. He said, "This is my ✝ blood of the covenant, poured out for you, for the forgiveness of sins. Do the same in my memory." Matt 26:26-28, Luke 22:19-20

♬ ***Oh come Lord Jesus come and dine and give yourself through bread and wine. Feed us so we may have new birth, and bring your rule ov'r all the earth. Come now, come now! Our Lord Jesus and bring your healing love to us!*** ♬ *(LSB 357)*

Sharing the Bread & Wine

Jesus says, “I am the Bread of Life. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me.” John 6:51, 56 As we feed on the Bread of Life ✦ **we are made members of Christ’s Body.** 1 Cor 10:16-17 ✦ We no longer live for ourselves ✦ **but Christ lives within us.** Gal 2:20 ✦ We invite all Baptized members of the universal Church, who give their undivided allegiance to Jesus and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us ✦ **as the Creator’s Lamb mysteriously gives himself to us in, with, and under this bread, wine, and communion.** ♬ ***We fall down now before you, Jesus you are the Lord. We lay our crowns before you, and put down all our swords. We give you all of our lives, we will hold nothing back. For you gave us everything, there is nothing we lack. You are the true Lamb of God, you gave your life for all. Teach us now to live like lambs, to trust you as we fall.*** ♬ *(LSB 941)*

Song — ***“O God of Earth & Altar” (tune: LSB 517)***

♬ ***O God of earth and altar, Bow down and hear our cry, Our earthly rulers falter, Our people drift and die; Our walls of wealth entomb us, Our swords of scorn divide, Take not your thunder from us, But take away our pride.*** ♬

♬ ***From all that terror teaches, From lies of tongue and pen, From all the easy speeches That comfort cruel men, From selfish isolation, From violence and the sword, From apathy’s damnation, Deliver us, good Lord.*** ♬

♬ ***Tie in a living tether Each creature one and all, Bind all our lives together, Judge us and save us all; By your grace so wonderful, In faith and hope and love, Lift up a living people, Who live for you above.*** ♬

Αγάπη Feast & Text Discussion

Jesus says, “Do you love me? ✦ **Then feed my sheep.”** John 21:17 ✦ We now move to our Bible study room to continue devoting ourselves ✦ **“to the Apostles’ teaching, to communion with each other, to the sharing of bread, and to prayer.”** Acts 2:42

Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Jesus says, “Love your enemies ✦ **so you will be children of your heavenly Father.** Matt 5:44-45 ✦ Go proclaim, ✦ **the Kingdom of Heaven has arrived!** ✦ Freely you have received from the Creator, ✦ **now freely you must give.** Matt 10:7-8 ✦ I am sending you like sheep among wolves, ✦ **so be as clever as serpents and as non-violent as doves.** Matt 10:16 ✦ Make disciples of all nations, ✦ **baptizing and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded.** Matt 28:19-20 ✦ Do not be afraid to suffer! ✦ **Be faithful through death and I will give you the crown of life.”** Rev 2:10 ✝ **Amen.**

♬ ***Give us mouths to sing your glory, hearts your teachings to obey, hands that live your love that fills us, feet to walk your holy Way. Holy Spirit, light-creator, may the truth which you do send, fill our lives with loving mercy and trusting peace without end!*** ♬ *(LSB 578)*

Blessing

Jesus says, “Blessed are you who are poor, for the Creator’s Kingdom is yours. Luke 6:20 Blessed are your eyes, because they see. Blessed are your ears, because they listen. Matt 13:16 Blessed are those who listen to the Creator’s Word and obey it.” Luke 11:28 ✝ **Amen.**

* Faith & Film: “The Perfect Neighbor” (Nov 30) | “I Am Mother” (Dec 7, 14) | “Knight of Cups” (Jan 4, 11) | “The Killer” (Jan 18, 25) | “The Whale” (Feb 1, 8)
* Growing in H.O.P.E.: Weds @ 5:30 pm @ DG, Dec 2, 9, 16, Jan 6, 13, 20, 27 — applying the week’s sermon text — food & fellowship starts at 5:00 pm
* Game Night: @ DG (6 pm, BYOB), Dec 4, Jan 8, Feb 5
* Christ the King Gospel Readings: Sundays, Nov 15 & 22 we will have extended worship to listen to the whole Gospel of Matthew in two parts.
* 2027 Budget Meeting: Sun, Dec 6, following liturgy

Weekly Calendar | November 22 - 29, 2026		
Sun, Nov 22	9:30 am	Liturgy & Αγάπη Feast | Matthew 16:13—28:20
Mon, Nov 23	6:00 pm	
Wed, Nov 25	5:30 pm	
Sat, Nov 28	7-9 am	Neighborhood Breakfast
Sun, Nov 29	9:30 am	Liturgy & Αγάπη Feast | Psalm 1—2

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