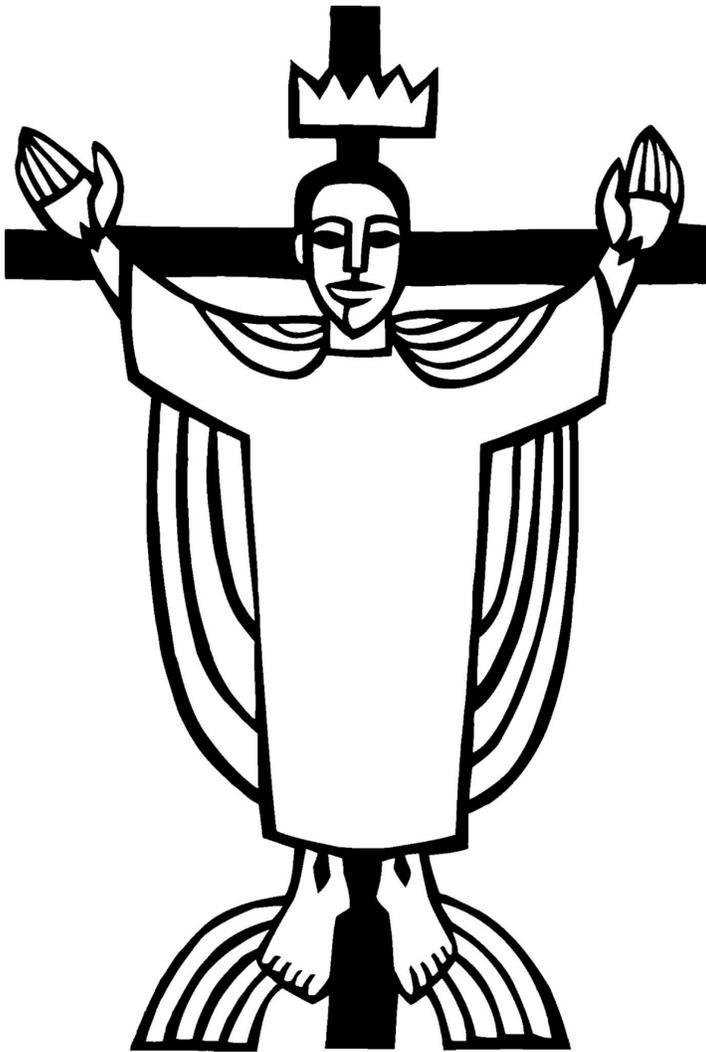


Christ the King

The Crowning of the Year



A note about today's worship

Christ the King Sunday is the final Sunday of the church year. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death while still awaiting the fulfillment of all things yet to come. Christ is merciful and we go out so that his love may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Christians affirm that Christ comes not only in a past event, but also in our present life and the world's unfolding future. The word Advent means "coming" - and we pray that God will continually come to bring life to a dying world. Advent is a time to meditate on the meaning of life and what is in our own hearts and to pray for God's salvation and wholeness for creation.

Advent is about more than anticipating the birth of Jesus. It celebrates the many times Jesus comes to us, including as a baby in Bethlehem, as a victor at the end of time, and each time we gather as a community around Word and Sacrament.

The church year is cyclical- there is no ending and no beginning. We begin by looking to the end.

The assembly is asked to read aloud the bold print portions.

Call to Worship

The assembly rises in body or in spirit.

This is the day the Lord has made!

This is the crowning of the year!

The life of Christ is the model of our own, and he shapes all we say and do.

The Lord reigns over all our days.

Hymn: *Lift High the Cross v. 1, 4 (ELW 660)*

The assembly is seated.

Advent: A Season of Preparation

God has always been present with God's people. Amidst the changing days of this world, amidst flood, fire, and famine; amidst death, life, and new life, God's presence has sustained us. For generations, women and men longed for that presence to be more real. They waited for God to step in and make God's presence known.

And so in Advent we too stop and wait, remembering that God comes among us in Christ to make all things new. In the midst of the waiting, God speaks in the voice of the prophet Isaiah to give comfort and call the people to prepare the way for something new.

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Hymn: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel v. 3, 5 (ELW 257)*

Christmas: Emmanuel, God-with-Us

In Jesus Christ, God steps into our world. In Jesus, God became human, Emmanuel, God-with-us. At Christmas, we remember how he was born of Mary, how his lowly birth shows us that God stands with the poor and the powerless, how he feels for all our sadness and shares in all our gladness. And so we hear again the story of his birth, according to Luke.

Luke 2:1-20

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to

Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ **And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.** ⁸



in that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, **"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:** ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴**"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"** ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ **But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.** ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn: *Away in a Manger* v. 1, 2 (ELW 277)

Epiphany: The Light Shines in the Darkness

In Christ, light broke through into our weary world, shining the brightness of God into all brokenness, into all pain and sorrow and suffering and sighing, into every uncertainty and anxiety and hopeless place. At Epiphany, we remember how the light of Christ shines into our hearts and our lives, transforms us into the people God intends for us to be, and compels even those from far away to journey to see the light.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ² For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. ³ Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Hymn: *Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory v.1, 3 (ELW 561)*

Lent: Penitence and Preparation

Early in his ministry, Jesus endured a time of testing and trial. Mark describes it in his gospel. So remembering all the trials of Jesus' life and seeking to deepen our own faithfulness alongside his, we celebrate

Lent: forty days of penitence and preparation, forty days of setting aside the things that keep us from right relationship with God and our neighbor, forty days of taking up a new way that can bring us closer to God in Christ.

Mark 1:12-13

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.



Hymn: *Be Thou My Vision* v.1, 4 (ELW 793)

Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday: God's Love Revealed

Jesus lived a faithful life, teaching the people and his disciples more about who God is and how God is at work in the world. He healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind, and called people to repentance. He proclaimed the coming of the kingdom of God. But not everyone agreed with him. His words threatened the powerful and challenged the status quo.

When the time came for him to face the authorities, he was abandoned by those who loved him. Even amidst his innocence, he was condemned to death, hung on a cross and left to die. The gospel according to Mark tells us the sad story.



Mark 15:25-41

²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ^{28 29} Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. ³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" ⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Hymn: *Jesu, Jesu Fill Us With Your Love v.1, 4 (ELW 708)*

Easter: The Lord Is Risen!



Even amidst their terror and amazement, Jesus was not there—he was raised! And so every Sunday we celebrate the resurrection once again.

Mark 16:1-8

¹ When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² **And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.** ³ **They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"** ⁴ **When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.** ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him." ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Hymn: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* v.1, 2, 4 (ELW 365)

Pentecost: The Holy Spirit Comes Among Us

In the days after his resurrection, the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples and made it clear that he was not just a ghost but a real man, living once again. He told his friends that he would not be able to be among them

forever, but he did promise that God would send them the Holy Spirit to journey with them. God kept God's promise.

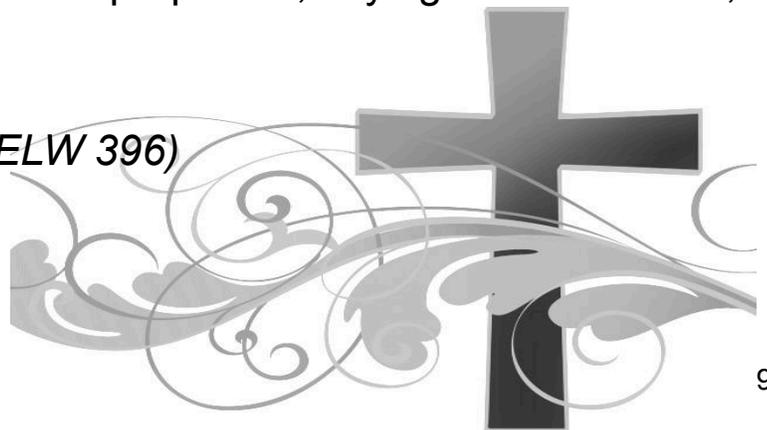
On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came among the people with great power and glory, as told in the book of Acts.

And so even now, every year on Pentecost we celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. We remember how the Spirit inspires us to believe the good news of the gospel, how the Spirit opens us to new relationships with God and one another, how the Spirit helps us to join in God's work of making all things new.

Acts 2:1-13

¹ When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. ⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

Hymn: *Spirit of Gentleness* v.1, 4 (ELW 396)



Ordinary Time: for the Living of Our Days

While we have seen God at work in the movement of the life of Jesus, we also see how God is working in us too to make all things new. God's presence is real even in the most ordinary moments of life and living. Even amidst the struggles of the day to day, we know that God journeys with us everywhere we go and shows us how to trust the fullness of God's grace amidst all of time and space. Amidst all the time of our lives, may we know the God who reigns over all our days. The writer of Ecclesiastes put it well.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² **a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;**

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

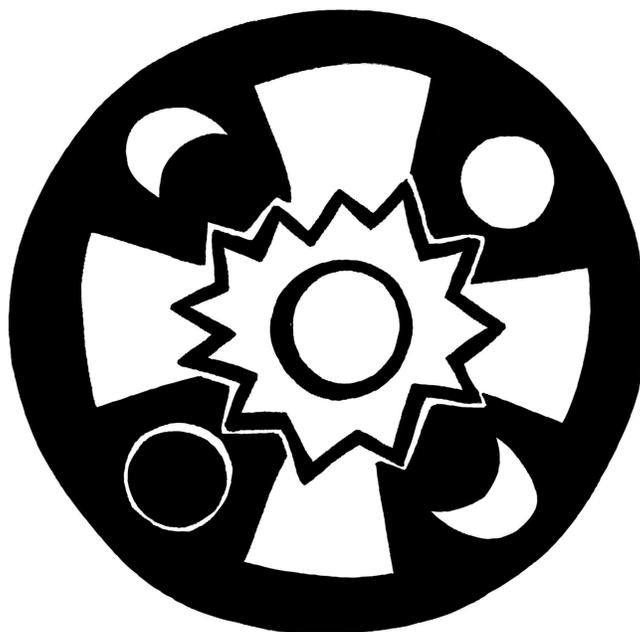
⁴ **a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;**

⁵ a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ **a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;**

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ **a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.**



Hymn: *Let All Things Now Living (ELW 881)*

Nicene Creed

The assembly rises in body or in spirit.

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 Faithful

Grant, Almighty King, that all who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory to the world.

Blessed are you, king of the universe, who came to make us a free people. For the leaders of nations who love and bring freedom, and for those who make it die, we pray: ***Lord, your kingdom come.***

Blessed are you, king of the universe, who came to make us a people of siblings. For those who defend the rights of others and for those who defend only theirs, we pray: ***Lord, your kingdom come.***

Blessed are you, king of the universe, who came to make us a people of witnesses. For the Christians who live their faith and for those who let their faith die, we pray: ***Lord, your kingdom come.***

Blessed are you, king of the universe, who came to make us a people of the truth. For those whose words and deeds can be trusted and for those who betray you and one another, we pray: ***Lord, your kingdom come.***

Blessed are you, king of the universe, who came to make us a serving people. For those who care for one another and for those who go their selfish ways, we pray: ***Lord, your kingdom come.***

Blessed are you, king of the universe, who came to make us a people of hope. For those who keep toiling for all that is good and for those who give up in discouragement, we pray: ***Lord, your kingdom come.***

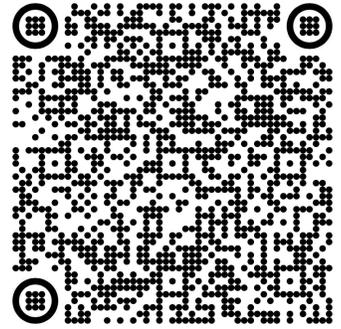
Our Lord and king, with you we carry the burdens of our brothers and sisters. May its weight be light because it is a burden of love. Be our strength now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

An offering is collected for the ministry and mission of the church. Your gifts may be placed in the offering plate or you may give electronically using the QR code.



The assembly rises in body or in spirit.

Offering Hymn: We are an Offering ELW 692

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to you

We are an offering

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

Lord use our lives they are yours

We are an offering

All that we have, all that we are

All that we hope to be

We give to you, we give to you

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to you

We are an offering

We are an offering

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life.

Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name.

Amen.

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.

Blessed are you, O God, for your light that is with us in every generation, through every season, among all peoples, in every time and place.

O God, you are light.
Your Spirit hovered over the murky abyss at creation.
At your word there was light—
sun, moon, and stars to separate the day from the night,
and to mark the shifting seasons.

Blessed be God forever.

O God, you are fire.
By a flaming pillar, you led your people Israel through the wilderness.
In a fiery furnace, you stayed with your faithful ones in Babylon.
In the upper room, you poured out your Spirit on the apostles in tongues of fire.

Glory to God forever.

O God, you are light.
In Jesus your Christ, the Word became flesh
and dwelt among us,
bringing the life that is the light of all people,
the light that shines in the darkness.

Blessed be God forever.

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

Remembering his ministry among the outcasts, his healings among the unclean, and his death among the wretched, so too we remember the brightness of his resurrection,
as we boldly proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Send now your Spirit in this place:
Bless this meal of grape and grain,
that it may be given for our nourishment.
Bless too this assembly gathered here,
that so filled with good things at this table we might become the body of Christ.

As nights grow longer and days become colder: Warm our hearts with the fire of your gospel, and send us out as light to a weary world, as we look to your coming among us in Christ, the firstborn of all creation.

And so with all your saints in Paradise, the church on earth, and the whole of creation,
we praise you, O God, our light, our refuge, and our strength.
To you be given all honor and glory, blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

With Jesus, our lord and king, we pray to our Father in heaven that the kingdom may grow among us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

This is Jesus, our Lord and king, who is the beginning and the end, the meaning of our lives.

Happy are we to be invited to the table of his kingdom.

All are welcome to receive communion. Please alert an usher if you desire communion in your seat. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. The inside ring of cups is filled with non-alcoholic white grape juice.

Once all have communed, the assembly rises in body or in spirit.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Our God and Father, Pilate said of Jesus your Son: Look at the man - Look at your king. Jesus has been with us now and we have recognized him in faith as your eternal Son, a man and our king. Make us respond to his challenge to become, like him, people living for others, who can give a face, a voice, a heart and a name to your saving love. Help us to make him the beginning and the end of all that what we are and do, that he may be our Lord and king for ever. **Amen.**

The Reign of Christ: Already and Not Yet

Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He reigns over us and all our world with justice, mercy and peace.

Benediction

May the Good News of the Kingdom spread and enrich all peoples and cultures everywhere over the wide world. **Amen.**

May the kingdom of Christ grow among us as a kingdom of justice, love and peace. **Amen.**

May the light of Christ's truth enlighten all and his serving love be alive in us all. **Amen.**

Almighty God, ☩ Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Now, let us join with all creation and sign our praises to God, who was and is and who is to come.

Hymn: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise v.1, 4 (ELW 834)*

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve our King. **Thanks be to God!**

This special service was written by Rev. Cassie Anderson for the congregation at Peace Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. It was used and adapted with her permission.

The Eucharistic Prayer was written by Rev. Josh Evans, who currently serves St. John Lutheran Church in Albany, New York.

The Prayers of the Faithful and other assorted prayers for this service were written or collected by Father Tony Thampi Kayala of St. Andre Home in Sakalavara, Bangalore.

