



June 1, 2025



Welcome to worship at Christ Church!

Our aim is to enjoy the goodness of our triune God in fellowship within the community he has formed, lifting our hearts as an offering to the Lord using the varied and unique gifts of this local congregation. We await his transformative word in our lives.

We are glad that you have joined us.

Young children are an important part of our community as well. We are very happy to be part of this very significant stage in their lives — learning to worship together in the community of believers. You are welcome to keep your children with you throughout the service, or you may choose to use one of our nurseries for children ages 3 years and younger and Christ Kids Worship at the 8:30 service for 4- to 6-year olds during the sermon. Activity bags for children during the 11:15 service are available in the bulletin table in the foyer. If you have a baby and would like a quiet space, you are welcome to use the nursery or the library.

Assistive hearing devices are available in the sound booth, located in the back of the sanctuary. If you are experiencing sensory sensitivity, an usher can direct you to a quiet space.

Prelude

Welcome

Pastor Michael Anderson

Silent meditation

The Psalms pull no punches. They remind us that worship is not only celebratory, but often mournful—the cry of those so overcome with grief, so lost in darkness, that the world of light and laughter and sun and sky seems like a half-forgotten memory. The God we serve—the One who is relentlessly present with us, even when He seems as distant as the peace we long for—is with us both in triumphant victory and in crushing defeat. In consolation and in desolation. In darkness and in light. In weeping and in rejoicing. In death and in life.... [The psalms] move us. Shock us. Invite us to join them in their joy and in their lament. For God is present in it all.

—from the Introduction to *Sheltering Mercy* by Ryan Whitaker Smith and Dan Wilt

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:1-3

Elder Bob La Fleur

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

* *Morning Sun*

Trinity Hymnal 287

* **Invocation** responsively; congregation read **bold portions**

Lord, one truth stands above all others: You are King, and there is none beside You.

For who can speak worlds into being? Who can breathe life into dust?

Ancient stones proclaim it. Timeless words declare it.

You are Everlasting God: Alpha. Omega. Beginning. End.

Your Word-shaped world gives You praise: glory surging from the deep, the roar of wave upon wave—thunderous worship, exalting Your name.

Lord, one truth stands above all others: You are King, and there is none beside You.

Your Word stands generation to generation; not one iota, not one dot, will pass from it until all is fulfilled.

Amen

Reading for Ascension Sunday Luke 24:33-53

Three readers from the congregation are needed for the following passage and have not been assigned. Anyone is welcome to read. Please go to a microphone or ask someone to bring you one.

Reader 1

...And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Reader 2

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Reader 3

And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

GOD CALLS US TO RENEWAL

Call to confession

Isaiah 45:5-6

“I am the Lord, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.”

Prayer of confession followed by a time of silent confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Luke 23:33-38

And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

9:00 service *On the final verse of the song below, 4- to 6-year-olds are dismissed to the foyer for Christ Kids Worship and will return following the sermon.*

11:00 service *Church bags for 4- to 6-year-olds are available in the foyer.*

*** Before the Throne of God Above**

text, Charite Lees Bancroft/arr. Vikki Cook



1. Be - fore the throne of God a -
 2. When Sa - tan tempts me to des -
 3. Be - hold him there! The Ris - en



bove I have one strong and per - fect plea: a great High
 pair and tells me of the wrong with - in, up - ward I
 Lamb; my per - fect spot - less Right - eous - ness; the great un -



Priest whose name is Love, who - ev - er lives and pleads for
 look and see him there, who made an end to all my
 change - a - ble I Am; the King of Glo - ry and of



me. My name is grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
 sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died my sin - ful soul is count - ed
 Grace. One with Him - self I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his



heart. I know that while in heav'n he stands no tongue can
 free. For God, the Just, is sat - is - fied to look on
 blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my



bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
 him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
 Sav - ior and my God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

GOD'S WORD GIVEN TO US

* Scripture reading

Psalm 93

- ¹ The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty;
the Lord is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.
- ² Your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.
- ³ The floods have lifted up, O Lord,
the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.
- ⁴ Mightier than the thunders of many waters,
mightier than the waves of the sea,
the Lord on high is mighty!
- ⁵ Your decrees are very trustworthy;
holiness befits your house,
O Lord, forevermore.

Elder: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

* Prayer

Sermon Encountering the Lord in His Literary Temple

Pastor Andrew VanderMaas

A people in Exile ...

Enters a literary temple ...

To encounter the Lord who Reigns.

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO GOD

*** Rejoice, the Lord is King** Trinity Hymnal 309

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Trays will be passed through the rows. The bread served is gluten free. Hold the bread or cup until all are served and we'll partake together.

During the passing of the bread

O the Valleys Shall Ring

by Dave Bilbrough

O the valleys shall ring with the sound of praise
And the lion shall lie with the lamb.
Of his government there shall be no end,
And his glory shall fill the earth.

May your will be done, may your kingdom come!
Let it rule, let it reign in our lives.
There's a shout in the camp as we answer the call,
"Hail the King! Hail the Lord of lords!"

During the passing of the cup

Scriptures to consider

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. -Genesis 1:1

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out, and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?" -Luke 8:22-25

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory. -I Timothy 3:16

Prayer of Thanksgiving *spoken together*

You, Christ, are the bread of heaven, the cup of salvation, and we give you glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Living out our faith announcements about the life of the church

Prayers of the People

During the offertory

- Elders will pass baskets to collect communion cups
- Please pass the red friendship pads found at the end of the rows.
- Give online at christchurchgr.org or by texting (616) 208-2820

Offertory *I Saw the King*

by Daniel Mayoros

I saw the armies of angels arising,
The banners of heaven appeared on the clouds.
I saw the King in his glory arriving:
The cry goes up, "Our salvation is near!"

I heard the tongues of the holy ones singing,
Anthems of cherubim thundering on high,
Voices on voices in harmony ringing.
All God's redeemed join the heavenly choir.

See the King upon his throne;
See the victory he has won!
See his love and mercy saving.
Jesus reigns for evermore.

Under his fee every mountain shall crumble,
Valleys arise to prepare him a way.
So shall the prideful before him be humbled,
And the afflicted be raised to his side. *Chorus*

Look to his coming! You sleepers, awaken!
Where he approaches the shadows depart.
Feel, from your arms Satan's fetters are breaking
Lift up your heads and rejoice in the light! *Chorus*

*New Doxology

Praise God, from whom all _____ bless - ings _____ flow;

praise him, all crea - tures here be - low;

praise him a - bove, ye _____ heav'n - ly _____ host;

praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

A - men. A - men.

Kids and All: You are invited to come forward and play rhythm instruments as we sing our closing Amen song.

*** *And All the People Said Amen***

And all the people said “Amen!”
Oh, and all the people said “Amen.”
Give thanks to the Lord for his love never ends.
And all the people said “Amen!”

*** Postlude**

Cover Art

Linzy Cnossen

Worship musicians

Susan Guerra, piano
Mark Lundell, bass
John Bratt, drums