

# Christ the King

November 23, 2025 • Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas

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## As We Gather

Jesus is our King! He reigns! The early Christians sometimes were persecuted by the Roman empire because they insisted that Jesus was their King, way above the emperor. Yet Jesus did not come to lord it over us but to suffer and die and save us. The King came to serve and save his subjects!

Is Jesus the King in your heart? Are you helping to spread his kingdom? One day, when Jesus comes again in glory, everyone will have to bow before him whether they like it or not. For us, who trust in Jesus as Savior, that will be a wonderful moment to welcome Jesus as King! Come, Lord Jesus!

## Prelude

## Words of Welcome

Stand

## Sharing God's Peace with One Another

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you" as a sign of our unity and reconciliation in the Holy Spirit. As we are forgiven by God, so we forgive each other. (Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3)

## Opening Hymn: Come, Thou Almighty King

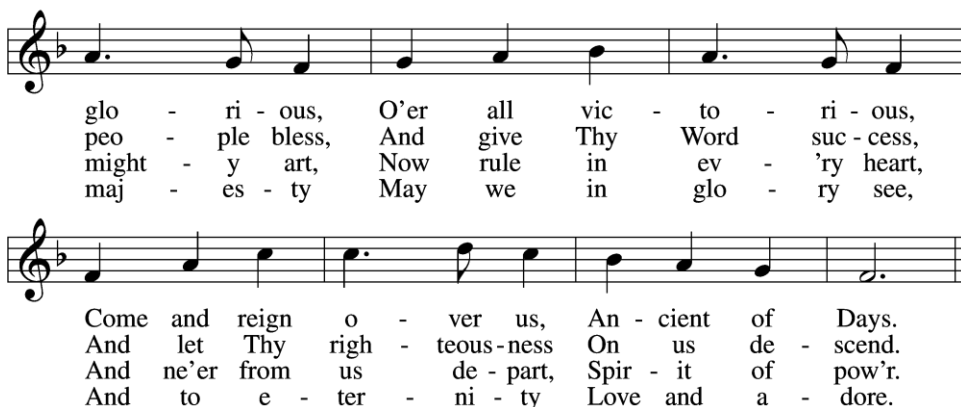
(Lutheran Service Book 905)



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy  
2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy  
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred  
△ 4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -  
might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy  
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -  
prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
 peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,  
 might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,  
 maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,  
 Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
 And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.  
 And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
 And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

Lutheran Service Book 151

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.** (*Matthew 28:19, 18:20*)
- P** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** (*1 John 1:8-9*)

## Confession and Absolution

- P** God is our King! And he commands us to care for one another with the love that comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith (1 Timothy 1:5). But honestly, very often our love is not all that pure, our consciences are not all that clean, and our faith is weak. Nevertheless, Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15). In Jesus' name, we ask God for a "royal pardon"!
- C** **Lord God, we admit that we have not lived up to your standards. We want to follow your ways but all too often we have failed. We have not loved you first and foremost. We have not loved other people as we ought. Forgive us. For Jesus' sake, wipe out our wrongdoing and make us clean. Amen.**
- P** Jesus Christ left his throne in heaven and died on the cross for our sins, to pay our debt. Through faith in Jesus, God the Father makes us clean, forgives us, and the Holy Spirit gives us a new start. By the decree of the Lord our King, therefore, I announce to you that all our wrongdoing has been forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Psalm 97:1-6

The Lord Reigns!

- P** The Lord reigns! Let the earth rejoice!  
**C** **Let the many coastlands be glad!**  
**P** Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;  
**C** **Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.**  
**P** Fire goes before him  
**C** **And burns up his adversaries all around.**  
**P** His lightnings light up the world.  
**C** **The earth sees and trembles.**  
**P** The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,  
**C** **Before the Lord of all the earth.**  
**P** The heavens proclaim his righteousness,  
**C** **And all the peoples see his glory.**  
**A** **Glory be to the Father and to the ✠ Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### There is a Redeemer

Lutheran Service Book 971



- 1 There is a Re - deem - er— Je - sus, God's own Son;  
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;  
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see His face;



- Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.  
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.  
There I'll serve my King for-ev - er In that ho - ly place.



- Thank You, O my Fa - ther, For giv-ing us Your Son,



- And leav - ing Your Spir-it Till the work on earth is done.

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## Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Lord Jesus, you are our King! Reign in our hearts. Extend your kingdom to people around the world. And come soon in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords. In your own name we pray. Amen.**

Sit

## Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6

*(God promised the people of Israel that he would send them a righteous King, the Savior)*

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!" declares the Lord. <sup>2</sup> Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. <sup>4</sup> I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> Behold, the days are coming, declares 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. <sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## New Testament (Epistle) Reading

Colossians 1:13-20

*(God has made us part of the kingdom of Jesus, who has saved us and who is over and above all things.)*

[God] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether

thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

### Alleluia and Verse

Lutheran Service Book 156



**C** 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.

### Holy Gospel

Luke 23:32-43

*(Jesus our King died on the cross to give us paradise.)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, chapter 23.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup> 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!" <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup> and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" <sup>41</sup> And we

indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

### Song while Children Come to the Front: King of Kings

King of kings and Lord of lords! Glory! (X) Alleluia!

King of kings and Lord of lords! Glory! (X) Alleluia!

Jesus, Prince of Peace! Glory! (X) Alleluia!

Jesus, Prince of Peace! Glory! (X) Alleluia!

### Children's Message

**Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name** Lutheran Service Book 549: 1, 5, 6, 7



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros-trate fall;  
5 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get The worm-wood and the gall,  
6 Let ev - 'ry kin-dred, ev - 'ry tribe, On this ter - res-trial ball  
7 Oh, that with yon - der sa - cred throng We at His feet may fall!



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.  
Go, spread your tro-phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.  
To Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe And crown Him Lord of all.  
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song And crown Him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all.  
Go, spread your tro-phies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.  
To Him all maj - es - ty as - cribe And crown Him Lord of all.  
We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song And crown Him Lord of all.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Sermon

Stand

## Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Church

God's Word tells us that he loves us and hears our prayers, and so we put our problems and concerns before him:

**P** Lord God, thank you for your great love for us! You are with us through thick and thin here on this earth, and you will be by our side forever in glory. Hear us and help us with the challenges we face today. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer!**

**P** Lord, show your power in our lives. Help us to leave behind our old, selfish ways and to live the new life which you have opened for us. Help us to be more and more like you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer!**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Rouse your church to action and help us to proclaim your salvation to every human being. Raise up faithful pastors and missionaries and church leaders; strengthen those who are suffering for their faith; and guide all of us Christians to be good witnesses to your love and salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer!**

**P** Heavenly Father, we bring before you all our needs and problems and worries. For peace and justice in our country, in Israel, in the Ukraine, and around the world, we cry for help to you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer!**

**P** Lord God, please help those who are suffering. We pray for those who are sick or lonely or grieving or facing great difficulties, particularly those in our congregation and our friends and family: *(See our prayer list at the end of the bulletin.)* Lord, in your mercy,

**C Hear our prayer!**

- P** Heavenly Father, help, protect, and bless our families and especially the children at our church and preschool. Guide and give strength and love to our preschool teachers, our Sunday School teachers, and our youth leaders. Bless the boy scouts who meet here. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer!**
- P** Dear Jesus, guide and help everyone who serves in your church, especially our brothers and sisters in this congregation who are elders, on the council, Bible study leaders, music ministry leader, church secretary, helping with altar care, running the sound system and internet, cleaning the church and preschool, serving as ushers and acolytes, bringing food, fixing and maintaining everything, or serving in any other way. Encourage them and bless their work! Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer!**
- P** Lord God, bless those who have served or who are now serving in the armed forces to defend the people of this country. Protect them from harm and from temptation, and help them in their calling. Be near them and help them to trust always in you. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **Hear our prayer!**
- P** Merciful God, hear our prayers, not only what we have expressed with our lips, but also the requests we have made silently, in our hearts. We trust in you alone. Because of your great love, Lord,
- C** **Amen.**

Sit

## Offering

The Bible says: "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income." (1 Corinthians 16:2a, NIV). In response to God's great love, as part of our worship we set aside a portion of what he has given us, for the mission and ministry at this congregation and throughout the world.

### Offering Options

You can contribute offerings using any of the following methods:

**In-Person donations:** You can place your donation in the offering plate as it is passed during the service.

**On-line Banking donations:** You can utilize the on-line bill pay option at your financial institution to donate to Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912.

**Mail donations:** Mail your check to the church office: Ascension Lutheran Church, 6520 Loma de Cristo, El Paso, TX 79912. The mail is checked daily.

**Other Electronic donation option:** You can make a secure contribution from your credit card or bank account at [www.alconnect.faith](http://www.alconnect.faith) or by scanning the QR code below.



We use Vanco, a reputable agency which specializes in donations to churches and nonprofit organizations. Your contribution can be set up to be recurring, such as each week or month, or as a one-time donation.

**Donations via an app:** If you prefer using your phone or tablet, you can download the Vanco Mobile app. You can easily set up an account and donate through the app.

*The ministries of Ascension are supported by the love, generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. As a guest, please do not feel obligated in any way to make a contribution. We believe that any gift to the Lord should be uncoerced and from the heart — as a loving response to God's grace.*



**Choir Anthem: 10,000 Reasons to Worship the King** (arr. By Dennis Allen)

1. *Oh worship the King, all glorious above,  
And gratefully sing his wonderful love,  
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.*
2. *Oh tell of his might, oh sing of his grace,  
Whose robe is the light and whose canopy space!  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.*
3. *Bless the Lord, oh my soul, oh my soul! Worship his holy name!  
Sing like never before, oh my soul! I'll worship your holy name!  
I'll worship your holy name!*
4. *Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail.  
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!*
5. *Bless the Lord, oh my soul! Oh worship the King!  
Bless the Lord, oh my soul! Oh worship the King!  
Bless the Lord, oh my soul!*

Stand

### Offering Prayer of Dedication

- A Almighty God, thank you for saving us through Jesus Christ. Bless these offerings and use them to proclaim the name of Jesus in every part of the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

### Offertory: Jesus Christ, My God, my Savior (tune: The Lutheran Hymnal 357)

1. Jesus Christ, my God, my Savior, Sovereign King, my Lord most high!  
I am small, yet here I give you All my heart, my hands, my life.
2. All I have is yours forever. Let me serve you faithfully!  
With the Father and the Spirit, Praise be yours eternally

## ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

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### Invitation and Preparation for Communion

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, one of the precious gifts that God gives to His people. In Communion, God wants to assure us that we have been forgiven through faith in Jesus who gave his body and blood for us on the cross.

To prepare for Communion, we follow what 1 Corinthians 11:28 says: "*Let each man examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks the cup.*" Therefore, if you wish to participate in Communion today, we ask that you review and affirm the following questions:

1. Do I believe I am a sinner, that is, that I have failed to keep God's commands as I should, and that I need forgiveness?
2. Do I trust in Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior, who died and rose for me?
3. Do I believe as I eat the bread and drink the cup, that I also receive the true body and blood of Jesus that He gave for me on the cross – even though I can't fully explain it?
4. Do I intend, with the help of God, to follow Jesus more closely and obey him more faithfully?

If you answer "yes" to these questions, then you share a common faith with our Christian congregation and you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Our common faith is expressed in more detail in the Creed that we confess together during the worship service.

## Special Instructions for Communion:

- Children and adults who are not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing. To indicate this, please cross your arms when the elders or pastor come by. Children do not commune until they have completed basic instruction classes about the Christian faith.
- If you are unable to go to the altar, please let an usher know and the Pastor will bring the Lord's Supper (Communion) to your pew. Please sit close to any of the three aisles in the church.
- During Communion, gluten-free communion wafers (bread) are available. Just ask the Pastor when he comes to give you the bread.
- During Communion, you may take one of the small communion cups from the tray, or you may wait and drink from the common cup.
- On the tray of small communion cups, those cups in the center of the tray have light-colored, non-alcoholic grape juice. The other cups have wine.

If you have any questions, please see the Pastor or one of the elders.

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## Preparation for Communion

- P** This is the day that the Lord has made!
- C** **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!** (Psalm 118:24)
- P** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!
- C** **His love endures forever!** (Psalm 118:1)
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!
- C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise!**
  
- P** Lord Jesus, we should indeed give you thanks and praise today and always, here and in every place, because you are the King of kings and the Lord of lords! You died for us and rose from the dead and have given us eternal life. Therefore we lift up our voices to you today, together with all the believers in heaven and on earth, to praise your name:

## Beautiful Savior

Lutheran Service Book 537, v. 1, 4

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of  
God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd  
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -  
serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Lord's Prayer

- A** **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.**

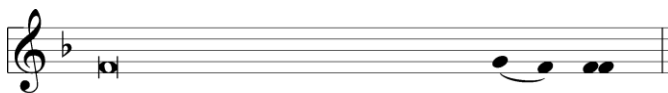
## The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**Pax Domini** (John 20:19)

Lutheran Service Book 163



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

**Agnus Dei** (Lamb of God, John 1:29)

Lutheran Service Book 163



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

# Hymns during Communion

## How Great Thou Art

Lutheran Service Book 801



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er  
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to  
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y  
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

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# Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lutheran Service Book 790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,  
 4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -  
 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your  
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -  
 made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly  
 fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall  
 dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His  
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is  
 fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has  
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -  
 prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.  
 might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.  
 peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

Text and tune: Public domain

## Oh Worship the King

Lutheran Service Book 804

1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.  
2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,  
3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,  
6 O mea - sure - less Might, in - ef - fa - ble Love,  
O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;  
Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;  
Al - might - y, Thy pow'r hath found - ed of old,  
While an - gels de - light to hymn Thee a - bove,  
Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,  
Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
Thy hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,  
Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.  
And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
With true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to Thy praise.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Lead On, Oh King Eternal

Make a Joyful Sound (White Booklet) 11

1. Lead on, oh King eternal. The day of march has come.  
Henceforth in fields of conquest thy tents shall be our home.  
Through days of preparation, thy grace has made us strong,  
And now, oh King eternal, we lift our battle song.
2. Lead on, oh King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
And holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace.  
For not with swords' loud clashing, or roll of stirring drums;  
With deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.
3. Lead on, oh King eternal. We follow, not with fears,  
For gladness breaks like morning where'er thy face appears.  
Thy cross is lifted o'er us; we journey to the light.  
The crown awaits the conquest. Lead on, oh God of might!



## Oh Jesus, King Most Wonderful

Lutheran Service Book 554



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!  
2 When once You vis - it dark - ened hearts,  
3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low,  
4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,  
5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -  
Then truth be - gins to shine, Then earth - ly van - i -  
The fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the  
For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -  
May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our



ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:  
ty de - parts, Then kin - dles love di - vine.  
joys we know, All that we can de - sire:  
self in - flame To seek You more and more!  
lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!

Text and tune: Public domain

## After Communion

Stand

### Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
- C** **Heavenly Father, I give you thanks and praise because you have strengthened my faith and because you have forgiven me through Jesus Christ your Son. Help me now to live a life worthy of you, founded on your Word and full of your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

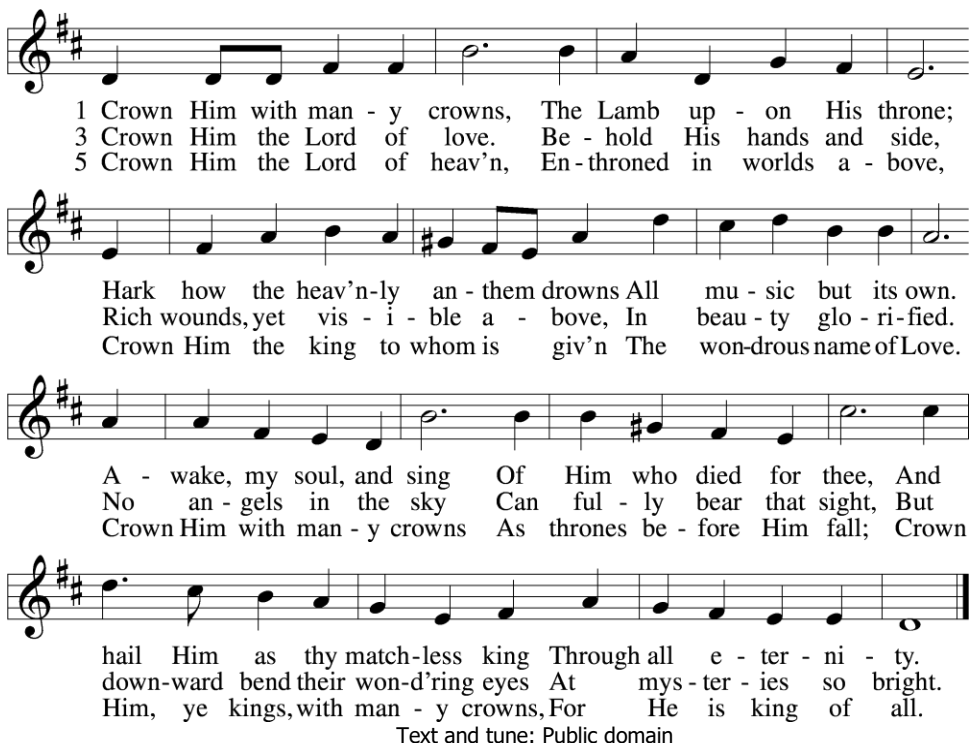
### Blessing

- P** To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever! (Revelation 1:5-6)
- C** **Amen.**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

**G** **Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns** Lutheran Service Book 525, 1, 3, 5



1 Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;  
3 Crown Him the Lord of love. Be - hold His hands and side,  
5 Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, En - throned in worlds a - bove,  
Hark how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own.  
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The won-drous name of Love.  
A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And  
No an - gels in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But  
Crown Him with man - y crowns As thrones be - fore Him fall; Crown  
hail Him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
down-ward bend their won-d'ring eyes At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
Him, ye kings, with man - y crowns, For He is king of all.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **Worship Leaders**

Pastor:	Richard Schlak
Organist:	Ruth Ann Ostergren
Elders:	Russ DeWitt/ David DeMartelaere
Acolyte:	Anders Faugstad
Crucifer:	Nedavia Meraz
Candle:	Rahel Meraz
Bible:	Tom Karl

Reader: Barbara Lewis  
Ushers: Team 2  
Altar Care: Werner  
Projectionist: Jacob Canada  
Sound/Camera: Mike Mielke

### **Prayer Ministry      Philippians 4:6-7**

Please call the church office @ 915-833-1009 to include a prayer request or update for the bulletin. If you have a prayer request or update for the prayer chain, please e-mail Jan Schlak at [oveja6925@aol.com](mailto:oveja6925@aol.com).

### **Grieving the Loss of Loved Ones:**

We pray for peace, comfort, and hope for all those who are grieving from the loss of loved ones, especially these whose loss is most recent:

For **Sue Overstreet**. Please pray for comfort for the family.

For **Austin, Bryan Perdue's** great nephew. Please pray for especially for Austin's father, **Jeremiah** (Bryan's nephew), Bryan, & all of the family as they grieve.

For **Leah Short, Ross Provencio's**. Please pray for comfort for Ross and the family.

### **Illness and Recovery:**

**Melanie Gallagher**, recovering with a second course of antibiotics after wound became infected after her acute appendicitis surgery, (pray that infection is killed by the antibiotics and no more will be needed); **Jaxon Coles**, nephew of Kari Larson Decker, 20 year old that had an unexplained seizure, is out of the hospital & now at home in Tampa with his parents, Kim & Dan. This past week, he had an appointment with a neurologist to determine the cause (please pray for correct diagnosis & effective treatment); **Connie Swinney**, had successful surgery on her hand, (please pray for continued recovery with no complications); **Michael Sheridan**, family of Gretchen Schmalz, was diagnosed with a brain tumor (please pray that the doctors have a successful surgery); **Aaron Levenhagen**, Linda Canada's nephew & Cheryl Canada-Karl's cousin, is improving after a surgery for a bowel obstruction, but he is still in the hospital with GI pain (please pray for a speedy recovery with no complications); **Norma Rust**, recovering from hip surgery at White Acres after a fall, & she is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease (please pray for a good recovery from hip injury, & for strength as she and **Jerry**, and their son, **Doug** move forward with difficult decisions after receiving the diagnosis); **Wayne Woolery**, who is the chairman of the board of directors of the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute, asks to pray for his 12 year old grandson, **Reuben**, will be undergoing chemotherapy for cancer; **Dorothy Lenz**, surgery to remove some lymph nodes showed no malignancy, but she will undergo more tests to be certain the parathyroid is not

malignant (please pray for a good outcome); **Elizabeth Hinson**, Mary Lou Provencio's daughter, waiting on the pathology results for evaluation of a nodule on her thyroid (asking for God's mercy & favor that the nodule is benign); pray for **Rachel**, Elizabeth Hinson's daughter, who is hoping to find employment (pray that she finds a nursing job soon); **Gilbert Provencio**, Mary Lou's husband, who has not improved since the shunt placement, (pray for the neurologist treating him to be able to increase the cerebrospinal fluid to improve his walking gait & balance); **Bruce Walker**, father of Daren Walker, receives maintenance care for Parkinson's disease (please pray for strength & comfort for him and his family); **Kelly Alberson**, breast cancer (please pray for strength and comfort); **Cindy & Don Unsworth**, friends of former Ascension members Cathy & Randy Engel; Cindy is in hospice care for lung cancer (please continue to pray for God's will for Cindy and for peace & strength for her husband, Don); **David Kwiatkowski**, friend of Connie Swinney, continues on in receiving different treatments for brain cancer, (please continue to pray for successful treatment); **Sandy Spott**, daughter-in-law of Barb Spott, is being treated by radiation & medication for recurring breast cancer (please pray for successful treatment); **Laurie Sterling**, continues to undergo treatment for colon cancer (please pray for treatment to be successful); **Maisie Warsau**, Marjy Brady's daughter Lauren's friend, was transferred to a facility in Atlanta that works with specialized injuries (pray for strength and continued healing for Maisie, & for peace and strength for her family); **Barbara Brock**, sister of Becky Hite, Becky & Gary Hite (former members), Barbara is in the hospital & she is not in good condition (please pray for healing); **Abigail Kailukatis**, friend of Jan Schlak's daughter Elizabeth, is still in a wheelchair, & limited in activities (praise the Lord that she is doing a little better, and please continue to pray for healing); **Martha Neal**, will need further leg surgery to improve blood circulation (pray for healing); **Jennifer Solich**, past Ascension administrative assistant, diagnosed with a brain tumor, (please pray for successful treatment & strength to tolerate the medication); **Kirstin Hervin**, daughter of Mike & Christy Mielke, experiencing a recurrence of lupus affecting her kidneys & is receiving injections, (please pray that the treatment is effective with no side effects); **Andy Barber** (for pain relief radiating from neck to hands) & for his wife, **Suzette Barber** (pray for her as she copes with OCD & anxiety as a result of her condition); **Marsha**, friend of the Barber's, has a lump in her breast, (please pray for strength); **Gloria Voge** (for successful leg therapy & healing from spine fracture); **Aubrey McDermott**, 15-year-old with MS, in hospital due to stroke (pray for healing); **Dick Seiders**, Ron Seiders' father (continued cancer recovery); **Patty Jones**, Martha Neal's sister in stage 4 breast cancer (pray for strength); **Sean Sweeney**, has a brain tumor (pray for strength); **Mariella Kraus**, has cancer (pray for healing); **Bob Gallagher**, **Brian Stickney** (pray for continuing health issues that cause them to be homebound); **Linda Seiders** (pray for continuing health issues); **Daniel Mendoza** rapidly losing kidney function (pray for strength).

### **Praise and Thanksgiving:**

**Gretchen Schmalz**, treatment for the bladder cancer was successful & there is no sign of cancer (give praise to the Lord, & she is grateful for the prayers from everyone); **Sharon**, Melanie Gallagher's niece, cancer treatment was successful (give praise to God, & she is grateful for the prayers); **Coby Clark**, cancer is in remission (give thanks that he is doing well); **Barb Spott**, treatment for vertigo is working (give thanks for the relief from the condition); **Mary Spott**, Barb Spott's niece, Keighley Spott's mother, on medication for heart related issues (give thanks & praise that she is doing well); **Ryan Walker**, nephew of Daren Walker, cancer is in remission (give thanks to God that he is doing better).

## **Ascension News & Notes**

**Flowers are provided today by the Werner's  
in celebration of  
Elliott Werner's birthday.**



**BOTH SETS OF FLOWERS ARE \$60.00.**

**NOTE: CONSIDER SHARING THE COST WITH  
SOMEONE ELSE. THEN YOU EACH PAY \$30.00**

**PLEASE PLACE YOUR CHECK IN THE OFFER-  
ING PLATE OR DROP IT OFF IN THE CHURCH  
OFFICE.**



**Nov. 23 — Phyllis Meraz**

**Nov. 24 — Elliott Werner**

**Nov. 26 — Joseph Karl**



**Nov. 28 — Adam & Lindsay Morales**



**HEARING AIDS FOR MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Our music director, Ruth Ann, is struggling with serious hearing difficulties that blur and confuse the organ sounds and the voice of anyone using a microphone (like the pastor during worship). She needs some specialized hearing aids; without them, she will not be able to continue to serve the Lord as organist and choir director. Insurance will cover part of the cost, but there will still be a shortfall of \$2,800.00, which is out of Ruth Ann's reach. Over the next 2 weeks, we will be taking up a freewill offering to help Ruth Ann with these hearing aids. If you would like to help out, you can place an envelope with a check or cash in the offering plate, with the words "Music Director Hearing Aids" written clearly on the outside. Ruth Ann has been a faithful servant of our congregation for many years; now we have an opportunity to support her, so she can continue to serve the Lord in music ministry.



**THE 2026 LUTHERAN WITNESS  
RENEWAL FOR SUBSCRIPTION IS  
HERE. THE RENEWAL AMOUNT IS  
\$20.65 FOR THE YEAR. PLEASE SEND  
IN YOUR CHECK TO THE CHURCH  
OFFICE BY JANUARY 9, 2026.**





**Please refer to this  
most up to date  
schedule for reference  
of the times of holiday  
worship services.**

(There was a mistake on  
the November calendar for  
Thanksgiving Eve service.)

## Holiday Worship Services Ascension Lutheran Church

Sundays and Wednesdays, Thanksgiving through New Years 2025

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES	MIDWEEK EVENING SERVICES
Sunday, November 23 10:30 am Worship	Wednesday, November 26 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Sunday, November 30 10:30 am Worship	Wednesday, December 3 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Midweek Worship
Sunday, December 7 10:30 am Worship	Wednesday, December 10 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm "Lessons and Carols"
Sunday, December 14 10:30 am Worship	Wednesday, December 17 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Midweek Worship
Sunday, December 21 10:30 am Worship	Wednesday, December 24 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
	Thursday, December 25 10:00 am Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 28 10:30 am Worship	Wednesday, December 31 5:00 pm New Years' Eve Service



## Thanksgiving Food Collection for Ysleta Lutheran Mission:

Collection will begin on November 1<sup>st</sup>  
The deadline for donations  
is Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Food will be delivered on November 25<sup>th</sup>.



CORN (Canned)  
Green Beans (Canned)  
Mixed Vegetables (Canned)  
SUGAR (Box or Bags)  
FLOUR  
TOP RAMEN NOODLE SOUP  
BEANS (Dry Bags)  
RICE (Box or Bags)  
COOKING OIL  
CEREAL  
PASTA  
MACARONI & CHEESE (Box)

Please join us as we celebrate God's provision and thankfulness for His blessings!

## Getting Ready for 2028!

The next **LCMS Youth Gathering** will take place  
in **San Antonio** in **2028** — and we're starting early to  
prepare!



Come hungry and visit our **BAKE SALE**  
on **Sunday, November 23**  
**(before & after service).**

All proceeds will go toward travel and lodging expenses for our young  
people who plan to attend the Gathering.

THANK YOU for your SUPPORT!

# November Calendar, Monthly Newsletter, and Portals of Prayers (Oct.-Dec. 2025)

are all available for pick-up in the narthex entrance of the church.

Be sure to pick up your calendar in the narthex.



## November 2025



## NEW

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 26 8:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Ladies Bible Study 12:00 pm Lunch 1:00 pm Men's Bible Study 2:00 pm Youth Bible Study 3:00 pm Children's Bible Study 4:00 pm Choir Practice 5:00 pm Prayer Meeting	Oct 27 Church Office Closed	Oct 28 8:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Ladies Bible Study 12:00 pm Lunch 1:00 pm Men's Bible Study 2:00 pm Youth Bible Study 3:00 pm Children's Bible Study 4:00 pm Choir Practice 5:00 pm Prayer Meeting	Oct 29 8:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Ladies Bible Study 12:00 pm Lunch 1:00 pm Men's Bible Study 2:00 pm Youth Bible Study 3:00 pm Children's Bible Study 4:00 pm Choir Practice 5:00 pm Prayer Meeting	Oct 30 8:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Ladies Bible Study 12:00 pm Lunch 1:00 pm Men's Bible Study 2:00 pm Youth Bible Study 3:00 pm Children's Bible Study 4:00 pm Choir Practice 5:00 pm Prayer Meeting	Oct 31 8:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Ladies Bible Study 12:00 pm Lunch 1:00 pm Men's Bible Study 2:00 pm Youth Bible Study 3:00 pm Children's Bible Study 4:00 pm Choir Practice 5:00 pm Prayer Meeting	Nov 1 8:00 am Bible Study 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Ladies Bible Study 12:00 pm Lunch 1:00 pm Men's Bible Study 2:00 pm Youth Bible Study 3:00 pm Children's Bible Study 4:00 pm Choir Practice 5:00 pm Prayer Meeting




Elizabeth Valdes 1102  
Rosalba Valdes 1102  
Regina Siegel 1102  
David Tschopp 1102  
Dorothy Valdes 1102  
Andrew Barber 1102  
Helen G. Schuch 1102  
Vicki Valdes 1102  
Phyllis West 1102  
Eliot Thayer 1102  
Joseph Kall 1102

I praise You because I am hardly  
and wonderfully made.  
Psalm 139:14



Adam & Lindsay Wedding 11:30  
And now these things remain: faith,  
hope and love. Not the greatest of  
these is love.  
1 Corinthians 13:13

Lutheran  
Prayer - Connecting with  
God - Library  
Prayer - Library  
Prayer - Library



## Connections

Newsletter of Ascension Lutheran Church • El Paso, Texas • November 2025

"Sharing God's Love By Connecting People To Christ"

**Ascension Lutheran Church Newsletter**  
**November 2025**

**Pastor's Desk**  
**Count Your Blessings**

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say this: "Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men..." (Psalm 107:1, 2, 8 NIV)*

Years ago, at Thanksgiving, Ascension used to pass out printed sheets with spaces to write down plenty of things we are thankful for. Each page had maybe 30 or so blank spaces to be filled in. When my family finished Thanksgiving dinner, my mom passed out the sheets and had us start writing. The first time this happened, I wasn't thrilled. I looked at that sheet with all the enthusiasm of a grade school kid having to write an essay about what they did over summer vacation. Didn't we have enough forms to fill out in life? Why ruin Thanksgiving with another one?

I started writing, thinking that I would have to really stretch to be able to find enough things to be thankful for to fill in all the spaces. But it wasn't at all like I thought it would be. I started with family. I wrote that I was thankful for my wife, for my son, for my two daughters, for my mother, for my mother-in-law, and each of my extended family members... in fact, I had to cut myself short because I could have filled in all of my spaces just with family. Then I started writing about the physical blessings that God had given me: clothes and shoes, food on the table, a roof over my head, a job with income, a phone, a computer, and on and on... again I had to stop because I could have used up another two pages just with "things" with which God had blessed me. Then there were friends and co-workers and brothers and sisters at church... better just to write the general category "friends" and not try to list them all because I was running out of room. And what about health and eyesight and hearing and being able to walk and talk and think clearly and taste and smell and hike in the desert... better cut it short again! And then there were spiritual blessings: God forgives me, saves me through Jesus, gives me eternal life, gives me his Word, is with me all the time, gives me strength when I face problems, hears me when I pray, encourages me, loves me no matter what, and so on. Then what about the country in which I live, the freedoms I enjoy, the people who sacrifice to serve my community...

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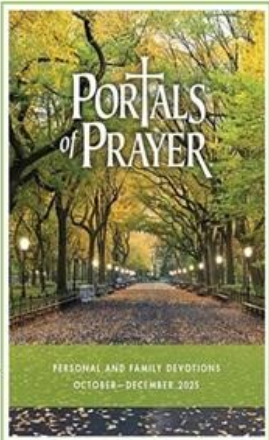
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www.ascensionlutheran.org


Connections Newsletter

**NOW AVAILABLE**  
**PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY**  
**TODAY IN THE NARTHEX.**

**PORTALS of PRAYER**

PERSONAL AND FAMILY DEVOTIONS  
OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2025



**NEW**

Be refreshed daily in God's living Word!

Ornament Exchange

Wrapped Please!

(Bring something you would  
like to receive)



**ALL Women of Ascension are invited to a**

***Christmas Brunch & Ornament Exchange***

**Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025 | 10 a.m. to Noon**

**At the home of Maritza Schlak**

**6317 Franklin Vista Drive | 915-238-3283**

*Please bring a plate of your favorite brunch goodies  
(savory or sweet) to share with everyone.*



**Congregational Meeting**

**December 14th, 2025**

**Immediately after the service**

**Voting on the**

**Proposed 2026 Budget &**

**Proposed Slate of Council and Elders**

**\*The following copies are available in the church office to  
be printed upon request:**

**Congregation Agenda (Dec. 14, 2025),**

**Prior Congregation Minutes (July 13, 2025),**

**Proposed 2026 ALC Budget**

**Proposed 2026 Slate of Council & Elders**





## NO "LADIES NIGHT OUT"

### Attention!! All Ladies of Ascension

There will be No "Ladies Night Out" in December  
due to the holidays.  
**It will resume again in January 2026.**

### This Week @ Ascension

#### **Sunday (November 23)**

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study & Sunday School  
10:00 AM Fellowship  
10:30 AM Worship w/ Communion  
11:45 AM Confirmation Class



#### **Monday (November 24)**

Church Office Closed

Thanksgiving food collection delivery to San Pablo Lutheran Church/Ysleta Lutheran Mission

#### **Tuesday (November 25)**

6:30 PM Boy Scouts

#### **Wednesday (November 26)**

7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

#### **Thursday (November 27)**

Church Office Closed: Thanksgiving Day

#### **Friday (November 28)**

Church Office Closed

#### **Saturday (November 29)**

9:00 AM Decorating the sanctuary for Advent & Christmas