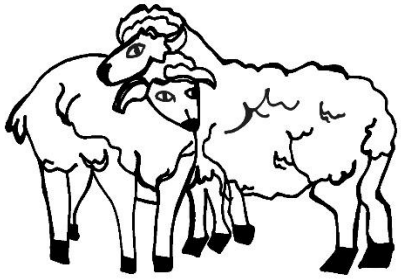
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Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 2026
ELW Holy Communion, Setting Eight

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

We at Grace Lutheran Church strive to reflect and proclaim the love of God shown to us by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit by providing an inclusive and supportive environment through loving care and community service.

A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us in person or online! We appreciate your contribution to the community today: with your voice, your presence, and just the blessing that you are. May you be nurtured by God's Word, empowered by the love of Christ, and stirred by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in this service this day, for the sake of God's mission in the world.

Grace Lutheran Church worships, prays, and serves on the traditional and unceded lands and territories of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ (Musqueam) and Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) speaking peoples.

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together this day with thanksgiving, to sing to the Lord and shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. For the Lord our God is great, merciful, and loving, ruling above all gods, all people, and all of creation. And so we come before the Lord our maker, and we bow down and kneel to God in song, in prayer, and in worship, as we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING SONGS: Rise, Shine, You People! (#665)

GREETING

The reigning grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the redeeming love of God, and the restoring fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 185)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we give you thanks for Jesus, whom you've restored as first-born from the dead, established as Lord over all, and whose name is above all names. Strengthen us to heed your call and serve him wisely and faithfully, that the world might see your glory throughout the earth, O God, for you are the rock of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Shepherd. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

A reading from Ezekiel.

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As
shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my
sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of
clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the
countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel,
by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good
pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in
good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will
be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek
the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the
weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and
the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak
animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they
shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall
feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David shall
be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 95:1-7a

[1] Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
[2] **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.
[3] For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
[4] **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are also yours.
[5] The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
[6] **Come, let us worship and bow down,**
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.
[7a] For the LORD is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from Ephesians.

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

[15] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18] so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. [20] God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. [22] And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (p. 188)

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] [31] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. [32] All the nations will be gathered before him,

and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, [33] and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. [34] Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, [35] for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36] I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' [37] Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? [38] And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? [39] And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' [40] And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' [41] Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, [42] for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44] Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' [45] Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Come Now, You Blessed (ACS #1059)

CREED
With all those called to serve God and neighbour, let us confess the Christian faith with the Apostle's Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called into a life full of service and community, let us together pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Each petition will end with, "by your shepherding mercy, O God," you are all invited to respond with **hear our prayer.** By your shepherding mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you are the rock of our salvation and in you we find grace. Be apparent in our lives and in the lives of others, that your name be praised in all that we say and do. By your shepherding mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we sing and shout for joy in your name, for you redeem and save us and make us your own. May this truth empower us in our service and ministry, and may your name be glorified. We remember in prayer our neighbouring faith communities; those who use this building for worship, work, and play; our full communion partners the Anglican Church of Canada and the Moravian Church in Canada; and all our bishops, rostered leaders, congregations, and ministries of the ELCIC. And in particular, we pray for Chetwynd Shared Ministry in Chetwynd, as well as for Christ Lutheran Church in Chilliwack, and all the pastors and leaders that serve those two communities. By your shepherding mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we come before you in thanksgiving, for you have made all the caverns, the mountains, the seas, and the lands of the earth and everything in them. May our stewardship of the beauties and wonders of your creation be pleasing to you, that this world might continue to house us and all life for the generations to come. By your shepherding mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you are a great ruler above all gods, four our trust belongs to you and your wisdom and justice. Bestow your influence on all the nations of this planet, that all people might learn to put down their weapons and trade them for tools of community and harmony. We lift in prayer those that we've supported to come into this country: Abraham Berhane; Solyana Amanuel; and Filimon Abraha; as well as for those who have not yet arrived: Maekele Kiflu, Selam Haile, and their children; and Meri, Surafiel, Nohom, and Elita Gabramikael. By your shepherding mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we worship and bow down before you, our maker, redeemer, and healer. You remain with us even in our lowest points, when we are sick, when we mourn, and when we feel lonely, and you lift us up by your love and fill us with meaning and hope. Especially we pray for the Rostad family; Kathy and family; Bryan and Chona; Ron, Tess, and Mineko; Janet; Bev and family; John and Betty; Sukhwant; Pastor Kristen; Pastor Carol; Laura; Kandie; Will; Chris; Larry; Walter; Piet; Kelly; Betty; Ngan Kew (nan CUE); Matt; Patty; Sarasawathi (SAR-ah-sa-WAH-tee); Hugh; Wai Lan (why-LAHN); Louisa; and all those we name aloud or quietly in our hearts at this time… By your shepherding mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, you are our God and we are the sheep of your everlasting pasture and the people of your welcoming hand throughout all eternity with you and the saints. May the faith of those we've loved and lost inform our own faith, that the unending community in your kingdom help us to see and regard all people as your beloved children. By your shepherding mercy, O God, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your leading and guiding and sovereignty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

DIALOGUE
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.

PREFACE
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who leads and guides us toward righteousness and faith,
joining us with all the choirs of angels,
the hosts of heaven, and the whole church on earth,
to praise your name with this unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (p. 190)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE
Holy and merciful God, you are the rock of our salvation and in you we find joy and hope. We come before you with thanksgiving, for you are great and your majesty is above all gods. We see your hand at work throughout all of creation: in its vast beauty, in its comprehensive relationships, and in its gracious redemption. For in the fullness of time you send to us your Son, Jesus, to lead us and guide us as your people in the ways of your truth and righteousness, revealing to all the grace and forgiveness you save us with.

For on the night when your Son Jesus was betrayed, he sat with his friends for a meal, where he took the bread, gave thanks, broke and shared it saying, "Take and eat, this is my body broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And after they ate it, he then took the cup, gave thanks, and passed it around the table for them to drink from 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."

It is in this heavenly food that we are reminded of our connection, our community, and companionship as your children, lifted up by your grace and forgiven by your mercy, together proclaiming this basis of our faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

So it is to you, O God, that all honour and glory belong for all that you have done and continue to do in loving us, welcoming us, and empowering us as your people in righteousness and faith,

through Jesus Christ our Sovereign Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER
Brought together by the grace of the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Taste and see, the blessing that is graciously given.
Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMNS
Lamb of God (p.191)
The Church's One Foundation (#654)
In Christ There Is No East or West (#650)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Holy God, we give you thanks for again feeding and nourishing us with your welcome and wisdom. Strengthen us by your love, that your good news be reflected in our lives and our very identity as your forgiven and redeemed people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING
May the Sovereign God who seeks the lost, bless you and keep you,
the Shepherding God who brings back the wandering heart, uphold you in grace and love,
and the Saviour God who strengthens the weary and binds up the injured, heal and empower you and grant you peace, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! (#634) verses 1,2,5,6

DISMISSAL
Go in peace, live with hope, journey in love, act with purpose.
Thanks be to God.

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