

Welcome to
The Episcopal Church of St. Paul
The Feast of Christ the King
November 26, 2023

Opening Hymn; 396

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.
Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Penitential Rite

How wonderful a king, Lord God, you have given us in Jesus your Son: neither a monarch throned in splendor nor a warrior bent on revenge, but a shepherd who seeks and rescues the flock, bringing them back, binding them up, strengthening them and feeding them with justice. Prepare us for the Day of Christ's coming in glory by shaping our lives according to his teaching that what we have done for the least of his brothers and sisters we have done for him. Let us acknowledge our failures and ask the Lord for pardon and strength, that at his return, we will be worthy of your kingdom.

Silence may be kept. Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The following hymn is sung S280 or said, all standing

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The **First Lesson** is from the prophet Ezekiel (34:11-16, 20-24)

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek 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. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will 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. 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I

will bring back the strayed, 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. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 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 100 *Jubilate Deo*

1. Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;* serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with song.
2. Know this: The Lord himself is God;* he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
3. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise;* give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
4. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;* and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

The **Second Lesson** is from the Letter to the Ephesians (1:15-23)

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray 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, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 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, 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Alleluia

(If able, stand for the Gospel)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew (25:31-46)

Glory be to you, Lord Christ

“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. 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, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 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, 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.’ 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? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 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.’ 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?’ 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.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise be to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Here follows the Nicene Creed, all standing

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

The Prayers of the People

Through baptism we have been raised with Christ, ordained to a royal priesthood, and made citizens in a holy nation. As faithful priests serving the King of kings, let us intercede for all the world, saying: In the name of Jesus our King, hear our prayer.

(As you are moved by the Spirit, please read one or more of the following petitions.)

Almighty God, sovereign majesty, as your humble priests we pray for all your children who do not confess you as Lord. Enable us to live the good news convincingly, that all may inherit life eternal in the kingdom of heaven. **In the name of Jesus our King, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, ruler of all nations, cause the leaders of nations to recognize your sovereignty and to accept your gracious rule. Make them proponents of

peace and lovers of justice. Crown each ruler with compassion, that all peoples may live in peace. **In the name of Jesus our King, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, merciful monarch, look with pity on all who suffer: those with incurable disease, those unjustly imprisoned, those denied dignity, the hungry, those without shelter, those who live without hope. Direct us toward them, that their royalty may be reclaimed and their lives celebrate your grace. **In the name of Jesus our King, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, Lord of the church, we pray for your holy catholic church on earth. Gather all who bear the name of Christ into one vigorous, fruitful community of faith, that the world may see one King of glory and one kingdom of grace. **In the name of Jesus our King, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who suffer affliction of any kind, that God, their constant companion and champion, may grant them healing and hope and life. **O God, for the sake of Christ, have mercy on us.**

Almighty God, benevolent judge, we pray for all your people gathered here to seek your grace. By your mercy, prepare us for the day of judgment, that we may accept it as a rich and royal gift for the eternal pleasure of the faithful. **In the name of Jesus our King, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, Author of Peace, we pray for all enmeshed in worldly conflicts and who need your rule of peace. Succor and sustain them in safety so that war may cease and peace reign. **In the name of Jesus our King, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all the special needs of our congregation:

Grant these petitions, O God, according to your perfect will, that your holy name be praised and proclaimed until that day when all the faithful shall gather before your throne in heaven, through the merits of Christ the King. **Amen.**

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Offertory Hymn: 291

Prayer over the gifts: Eternal God, by your grace you have raised us up and enthroned us with Christ in the heavenly realms. Receive all we offer you this day, and lead us in those good works for which

you have created us. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; whom you did exalt as Lord of all creation, that he might present to you an eternal and universal kingdom: a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People sing from Blue Hymnal S130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love...

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial ...

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

Let us pray in the words of the One whose coming is certain and whose day draws near:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world, **give us your peace.**

They will come from east and west and from north and south to sit at table in the kingdom of God:

Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Almighty God, you have made us a royal priesthood in the kingdom of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Make known his victory through us that all the world may see his light. Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Father from whom every family in earth and heaven receives its name strengthen you with his Spirit in your inner being so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Closing hymn. #416

Looking forward to that final Day when God will be all in all, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.