

Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

November 23, 2025 – Christ the King

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

69 Mill Street • Athens, OH • (740) 593-3144

info@clcathens.org • www.clcathens.org

(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)

Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.



SERVING TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Choir Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Lector: John Molinaro; Time with Children: Pastor Chad; Ushers: John Laughlin, Nick Claussen; Greeter: Bob Lyons; Acolyte: Rachel; Tray Server: Jane Unger; Livestream: Marilyn Shealy*

INTRODUCTION

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Look Ye Saints

CLC Choir

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.**

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✙ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

KYRIE

Leader sings parts marked "A"

Congregation sings parts marked "C"



A: We — pray for peace, O Lord, make plow-shares of our swords, make plow-shares of our



swords, hear us when we cry to you. C: Lord, have mer-cy on — us, have



mer-cy on us, Lord, have mer-cy on — us, hear us when we cry to you.



A: Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un - til we see your



face, hear us when we cry to you. C: Christ, have mer-cy on — us, have



mer-cy on us, Christ have mer-cy on — us, hear us when we cry to you.



A: De - fend your Church, O Lord, and root it in — your word, and root it in — your



word, hear us when we cry to you. C: Lord, have mer-cy on — us, have



mer-cy on — us, Lord, have mer-cy on — us, hear our cry. A - men.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says 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. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**
⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.
⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;**

God speaks, and the earth melts away.

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20

A reading from Colossians.

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his

clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come, Thou Almighty King (ELW 408)



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
 our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
 in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in
 hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
 ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

Dear God, thank you for bringing us together this morning for this opportunity to worship with one another. As we enter the holiday season and look forward to spending time with family and friends, help us also to reach out to those who may be feeling sad or alone, or those who are in need. You bless us in so many ways, and we are called to share our blessings and your love with those we meet in our lives every day. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Love, the world can often seem very harsh, as we see so many people impacted by violence and war, extreme weather and many other problems. It can be very difficult and sometimes we may feel alone or like we are surrounded by trouble and darkness. We thank you for always being our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. You have rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of your beloved son. Thank you for always being with us and help us to reach out to others and help them, too. And please also help us to remember that while we are all different in so many ways, we are all Your children because You made us in Your image. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Peace, so many people live in danger and in fear in our world. Please be with everyone whose lives are filled with danger of any sort. We ask you to help our leaders around the world to work for peace instead of conflict. Please protect those who serve in the military, comfort military families and bless our veterans. We ask you to also bless all refugees and help them to find comfort, respect, and acceptance. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Compassion, we ask you to comfort those experiencing grief and loss and to relieve those who are suffering. Please also bring strength to those who are hospitalized, confined to homes, or undergoing tests. We pray for healing for anyone who is ill in mind, body, or spirit. Restore to wholeness those who are struggling with addictions. Bless our shut-ins and help us to bring them joy. Please hear us now as we ask for blessings for those we name aloud or in our hearts..... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Comfort, be with those to whom death draws near and those who have lost loved ones. Bring peace and comfort to all who mourn; knowing with the conviction of our faith that because you so loved the world that you gave your Chosen Son, who died and rose again, we too will have eternal life. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PEACE

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

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>

There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

CHORAL OFFERING

All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name

CLC Choir

OFFERTORY



1. Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring To place up - on your ta - ble.
2. The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea-sure.
3. Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares We lift in pray'r be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought But on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dai - ly food Be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace, now come to us As hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,

but on you, who richly provides for us.

Multiply what we have gathered

to bless all who are suffering and in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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;

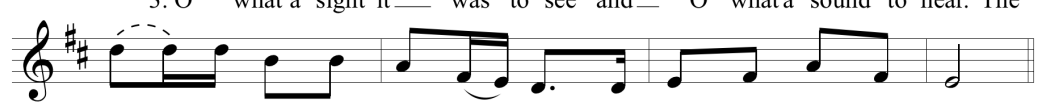
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Verses (sung by leader)



1. Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the scrip - tures do re - cord, I -
 2. High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes flow - ing through the hall, while
 3. O what a sight it was to see and O what a sound to hear. The



sa - iah to the tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.
 six - wing - ed an - gels flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.
 tem - ple door - posts shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

Refrain (sung by all)



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's



glo - ry fills the whole wide earth, God of pow - er and might.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
 our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
 you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
 You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
 and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
 You sent your Son to eat with sinners
 and to become food for the world.
 In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Remembering, therefore,

his life given for us
 and his rising from the grave,
 we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
 By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
 strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
 and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
 Through him all glory and honor is yours,
 Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
 in your holy Church,
 both now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

LAMB OF GOD

1. O Lamb of God, _____ to earth you came _____ To
 2. O Lamb of God, _____ the on - ly Son, _____ To

save us all _____ from grief and shame. _____ Shorn of your life, _____ up -
 us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. _____ You save the world _____ from

on the tree _____ You hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty. _____
 all its sin. _____ Lord, give to us your peace. A - men. _____

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

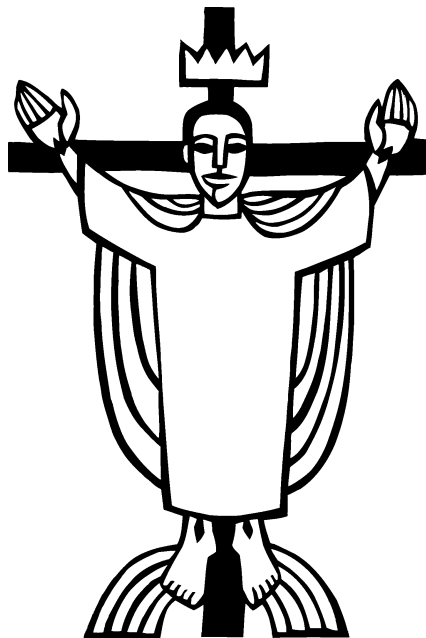
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✚ bless you now and forever.

Amen.



SENDING SONG

Crown Him with Many Crowns (ELW 855)



1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
 2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,
 3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,
 4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;
 rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4
 Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

DISMISSAL

The service has ended.

The ministry begins!

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.