DESERT CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH
SHARING · LOVING · SERVING

CHRIST THE KING
November 21-22, 2026
Sat 5pm/Sunday 9:30am Tempe/Live Stream/Gilbert
Order of Worship

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE:

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CALL TO WORSHIP:
Come, people of God, let us worship Christ our King.
We praise the One who reigns in love and gathers us in grace.

Christ calls us to a kingdom of mercy, justice, and peace.
With grateful hearts, we follow Jesus and serve our neighbors in love.

PENTECOST KYRIE:

ALL: Blessed be God, the source of life,
Creator of all, our hope and song.
Blessed be God, the source of love,
Holy Three and Holy One.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY:
Almighty and gracious God,
reign in our hearts with your mercy and love.
Turn us from the pursuit of power toward the humble way of Jesus.
Gather us into your kingdom of justice and peace.
By your Spirit, strengthen us to welcome the stranger,
care for the vulnerable, and serve our neighbors with joy;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: ELW 855 Crown Him with Many Crowns (vs. 1-4)

1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

2 Crown him the virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn;
fruit of the mystic rose,
yet of that rose the stem,
the root whence mercy ever flows,
the babe of Bethlehem.

3 Crown him the Lord of love--
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.

4 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4

MISSION MOMENT: Hospitality, Dana Hargis *(Gilbert only)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: ELW 575 Jesus Loves Me! *(Sunday Tempe/Gilbert)*

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Sat 5pm Tempe: ***NO*** *Children's Message*
Sunday Tempe & Gilbert: *Sing at all services*

Refrain
Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

FIRST LESSON:	
Psalm 95:1-7a *(Sat 5pm/Sunday Tempe)*	**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24** *(Gilbert)*
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.	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.
L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**	

PENTECOST GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Come Holy Spirit (In Gilbert, the Jr. Choir will sing "Sanna, Sannanina")

Refrain
Alleluia, come Holy Spirit, come,
Alleluia, we're gathered around Your throne.

Speak to Your people, ignite us with flame,
Fill us with power to speak of Your name.
Alleluia, our hearts are now Your home.

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GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

[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."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:	
"When Did We See You?" Pastor Andrea Cain *(Sat 5pm/Tempe)*	*"Love Never Stops Looking"* Pastor Thaddeus Book *(Gilbert)*

SONG OF THE DAY: The Jesus Way

Verse 1
If you curse me then I will bless you
If you hurt me I will forgive
And if you hate me then I will love you
I choose the Jesus way

Verse 2
If you're helpless I will defend you
And if you're burdened I'll share the weight
And if you're hopeless then let me show you
There's hope in the Jesus way

Chorus
I follow Jesus I follow Jesus
He wore my sin I'll gladly wear His name
He is the treasure He is the answer
Oh I choose the Jesus way

Verse 3
If you strike me I will embrace you
And if you chain me I'll sing His praise
And if you kill me my home is heaven
For I choose the Jesus way

Bridge
I choose surrender I choose to love
Oh God my Savior You'll always be enough
I choose forgiveness I choose grace
I choose to worship no matter what I face
I choose the Jesus way
I choose the Jesus way
I choose the Jesus way
I choose the Jesus way

Tag
Oh I choose the Jesus way

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(SUNDAY TEMPE) SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: Selenya Grace-Marie Tallent

PRESENTATION:
God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *Selenya* baptized into Christ?
PARENTS SAY: I do.

As you bring your *child* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with *her* among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in *her* hands the holy scriptures, and nurture *her* in faith and prayer, so that your *child* may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your *child* grow in the Christian faith and life?
PARENTS SAY: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Selenya* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *her* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?
SPONSORS SAY: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support *Selenya* and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ?
ALL: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH:
I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?
PARENTS AND SPONSORS SAY: I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?
ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
ALL: 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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
ALL: 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT:
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
ALL: Amen.

BAPTISM:
Selenya Grace-Marie Tallent, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen.

Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *Selenya* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
ALL: Amen.

Selenya Grace-Marie, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
ALL: Amen.

WELCOME:
Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life. Let us welcome the newly baptized.
ALL: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

(Sat 5pm/Gilbert) APOSTLES' 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:
Trusting in the mercy of Christ our King, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Christ our King, clothe your church in love, "which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Colossians 3:14). Connect us across our differences to welcome strangers and serve together. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace, guide the nations in your ways of justice. Turn leaders from domination toward service, protect the vulnerable, and teach us to care for your creation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful Savior, draw near to all who are ill, anxious, lonely, or grieving (especially). Feed the hungry, shelter those without homes, and move us to offer care and companionship. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Eternal King, we give thanks for the saints who served you in love. Comfort all who mourn, keep us faithful in our days, and gather us at last into your everlasting peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers, gracious God, and strengthen us to serve your kingdom with compassion and hope; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.
Amen.

PEACE:
May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

We share a word of peace with our neighbors.

MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:
The grace of Christ calls us to lives of gratitude and generosity. In Jesus Christ we are given new life. Let us celebrate this life by giving generously to the work of God's redeeming love.

The Hunger Jar is a love offering and is designated for ELCA World Hunger.

You are invited to share your gifts in worship while others give electronically at www.desertcross.org with the giving button, text giving, or by QR code. We give thanks for all the ways you support God's mission of outreach through Desert Cross that changes lives for the sake of the gospel

OFFERING SONG: Undivided

Verse 1
Undivided purified
Clean my hands as I lift them high
Consecrated set apart
Refine me and create a clean heart

Chorus
Teach me Your ways
Open my eyes
Show me Your glory
Make me like Christ
Come burn away
What's taken Your place
There's nothing I'm hiding
Here's my heart undivided

Verse 2
You create me sanctify me
You walk me through the fire and try me
You sustain me and remake me
Now all I really want is to be holy

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OFFERING PRAYER:
God of abundant grace,
you gather us into one body and connect us in the love of Christ.
Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude,
and join them with the gifts of others to strengthen community,
serve our neighbors, and share your hope throughout the world.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:

CONFESSION:
Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who draws us near, joins us in grace, and makes us one in Christ.
Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess the ways we have broken connection with God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
we confess that we turn inward and pull away from you.
We overlook our neighbors and allow division to separate us.
Forgive us, reconnect us in your love, and lead us in the way of Christ.

FORGIVENESS:
Hear the good news: God's mercy reaches across every distance.
In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. +
By the Holy Spirit, you are restored to God,
connected to one another, and sent to share Christ's love.
Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

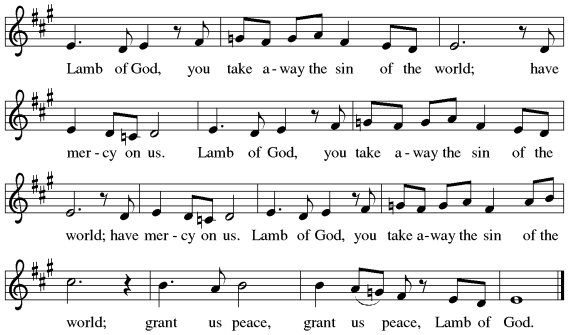
INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

This is Christ's table. There is a place for you.
All are welcome**.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

Come forward to receive the bread and a cup of wine/juice. Alert an usher for communion in your seat. All are welcome.

LAMB OF GOD: ELW p.191 - Lamb of God (Setting 8)



DISTRIBUTION SONG 1: ELW 502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is (vs. 1-4)

1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
thy rod and staff my comfort still;
thy cross before to guide me.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

DISTRIBUTION SONG 2: The Table

Verse 1
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I won't hunger anymore at His table

Chorus
Come all you weary come and find
His yoke is easy His burden is light
He is able He will restore
At the table of the Lord
(At the table of the Lord)

Verse 2
There is peace at the table of the Lord
There is peace at the table of the Lord
I won't worry anymore at His table

Verse 3
There is healing at the table of the Lord
There is healing at the table of the Lord
Oh and I won't suffer anymore at His table

Verse 4
I'm invited to the table of the Lord
I'm invited to the table of the Lord
He says come just as you are to His table

Bridge
I know He has a place for me
Oh what joy will fill my heart
With the saints around the mercy seat of God

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Wayne Jolley
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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER:

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

God of grace,
at this table you have fed us with the grace of Christ and joined us as one body.
Send us out strengthened by your love, ready to build connections
and serve all who hunger for hope and belonging.
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION:
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor +
And give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: Jesus Shall Reign (In Gilbert, we will sing Alabare)

Verse 1
Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore
Till sun shall rise and set no more

Verse 2
Blessings abound where'er He reigns
The pris'ner leaps to lose his chains
The weary find eternal rest
And all the sons of want are blessed

Chorus
To our King be highest praise
Rising through eternal days
Just and faithful He shall reign
Jesus shall reign

Verse 3
People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name

Verse 4
Let every creature rise and bring
Blessing and honor to our King
Angels descend with songs again
And earth repeat the loud amen

Ed Cash, Isaac Watts, John C. Hatton, Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty
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DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Thank you for supporting the Desert Cross mission. Here are the ways you can donate today:		
ONLINE GIVING: Get your smart phone and scan the QR-code with your phone camera	**SECURE TEXT GIVING:** Text "GIVE" to 833-636-1502	**USPS:** 8600 S. McClintock Drive Tempe, AZ 85284

Flower Donation:

The flowers on the altar in Tempe this weekend are given by MaryBeth & Doug LaMont in memory of Christine LaMont.

The white carnations on the altar are in remembrance of Ann Thomas' sister, Judie, and Bob Pohlit's wife and our sister in Christ, Zoe Pohlit.