"People of Christ Making a Difference"

Christ the King Sunday

November 22, 2026

8:30 AM &
11:00 AM

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

A nursery is provided for children through age 4 for both worship services and for infants and toddlers during Sunday School. The nursery is located at the end of the hall on the right side.

Children's bags can be found in the "Kid's Corner" of the narthex.

Restroom facilities are located down the hall on the left side.

First Aid, Emergency Equipment, and a wheelchair are located by the first hall stairwell.

If for any reason you must leave the sanctuary, the service is live streamed in the Agape Sunday School classroom. Any usher will be glad to direct you.

Sunday school classes are provided for 2 year olds through adults.

Listening devices and larger print bulletins are located in the narthex.
Ushers are also available to assist you.

If you are a visitor feel free to sign-in using the QR code. Here's how it works:
Point your camera at the image, tap the link that appears on your screen, and
Share whatever information you desire. Thank you! Hope to see you again soon!

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PEACE

PRELUDE *"Jesus Shall Reign"* Charles Callahan

(8:30) LITURGY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

(We Stand)

(11:00) THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM
Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Father, **+** Son, and Holy Spirit, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.
Amen.

A reading from Romans: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. *(Romans 6:3-5)*

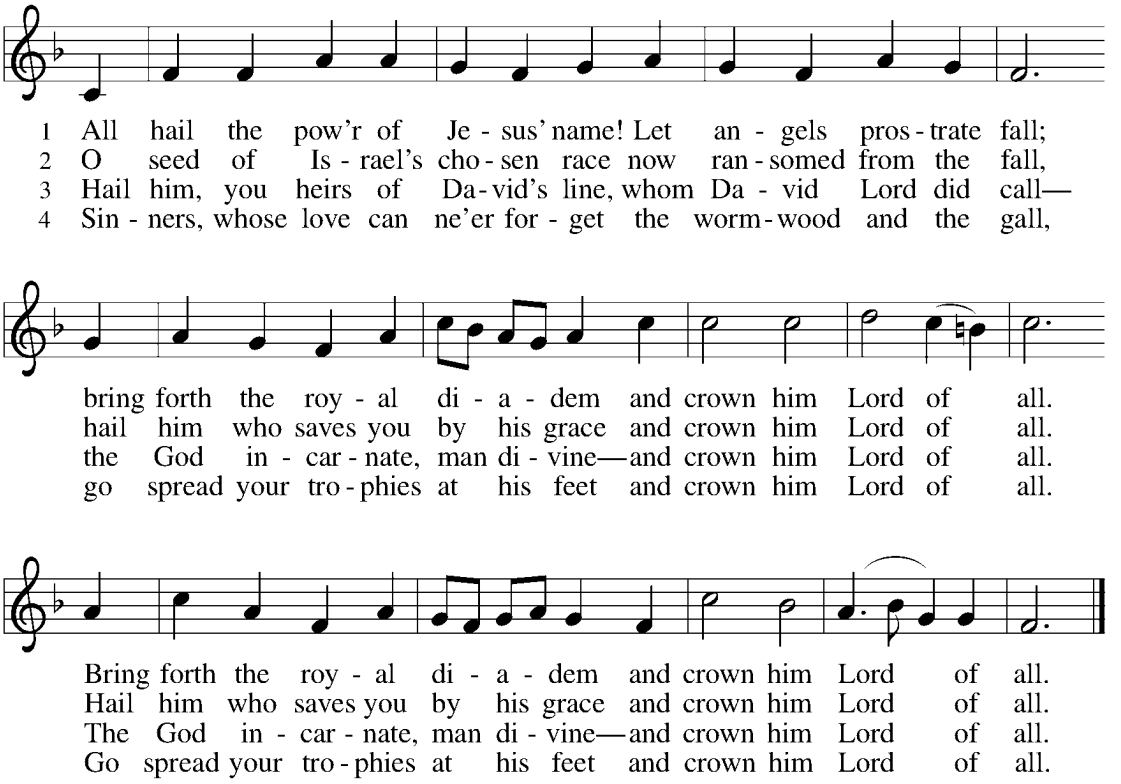
Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

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. 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 water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, who gives us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life through + Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"* ***(Stzs 1-4)*** ELW 634



GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.
And also with you.

KYRIE


In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE





THE SALUTATION
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(We Sit)

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

11 For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 12 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. 13 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. 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 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. 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 a- | bove all gods.
[4]**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are | also yours. R
[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. **R**

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:15-23

[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] 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, [18] 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, [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.

(We Stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[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 that 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 who are members of my family, you did it to me.' 41 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; 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.

(We Sit)

CHILDREN'S SERMON Pastor Ralph

SERMON Pastor Ralph

(We Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Jesus Shall Reign"* ELW 434



(11:00) THE NICENE CREED

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(We Sit)

OFFERING

God calls us to be generous stewards for the sake of our ministry near and far. You can support our ministry by putting your offering in the offering plate, mailing it to the church, giving online (sslc.org or use the QR Code) or through the Givelify app. If you would like more details on direct deposit giving please contact our Parish Administrator, Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, at (803) 359-6562.

Anthems (8:30) *"Bless This House"* May H. Brahe

Bless this house, O Lord we pray, make it safe by night and day.
Bless these walls, so firm and stout, keeping want and trouble out.
Bless the roof and chimneys tall, let thy peace lie over all.
Bless this door, that it may prove ever open to joy and love.
Bless these windows shining bright, letting in God's heavenly light.

Bless the hearth a blazing there, with smoke ascending like a prayer.
Bless the folk who dwell within, keep them pure and free from sin.
Bless us all that we may be fit, O Lord, to dwell with thee.
Bless us all that one day we may dwell, O Lord, with thee.

(11:00) *"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"* Hal H. Hopson

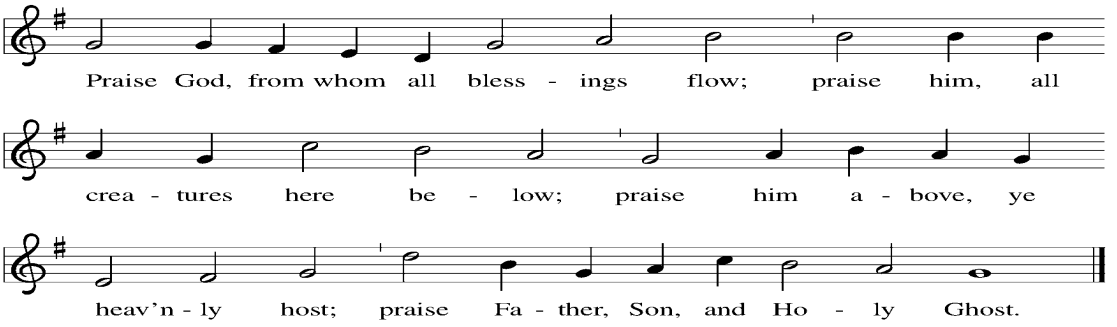
Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice give thanks and sing! Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King. Hosanna, hosanna. Rejoice give thanks and sing.

With all the angel choirs, with all the saints on earth, pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rapture, noblest mirth. Hosanna, hosanna, Rejoice give thanks and sing.

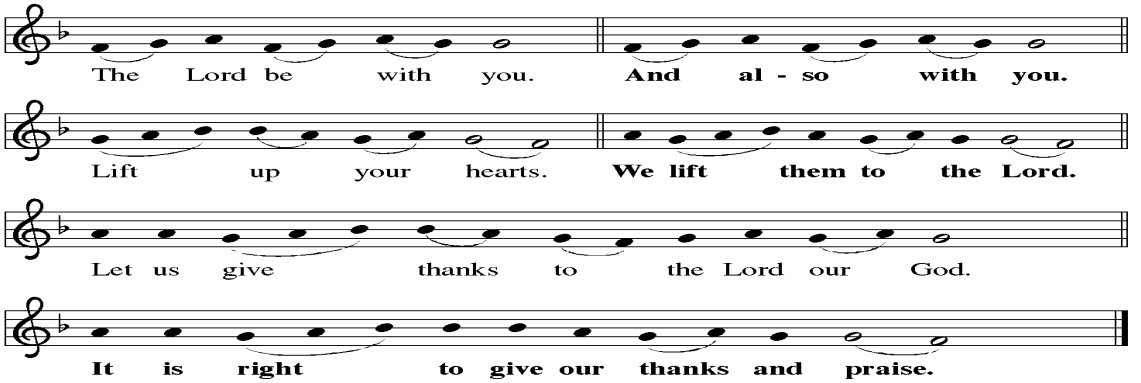
Yes, on through life's long path. Still chanting as we go. From youth to age, by night and day, in woe and joy alike. Hosanna, hosanna, Rejoice give thanks and sing.

(We Stand)

OFFERTORY ELW 854

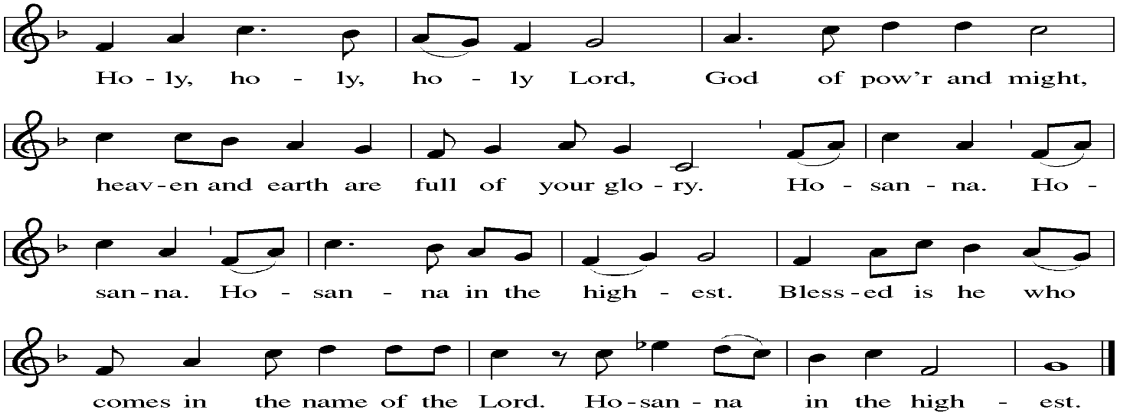


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



THE PREFACE

THE SANCTUS



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE 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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(We Sit)

THE AGNUS DEI



RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Christ welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion this morning at the center aisle. Communion will be brought to the front rows for those who wish to remain seated. Children who commune should be assisted by adults near them. Those unable to partake of wine or wheaten bread are assured of our Lord's presence in, with, and under each element alone. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music *"Meditation"* William Bates

The Congregation is encouraged to participate in the following Communion Hymn.
The hymn can be found in the back portion of the WOV (Blue) Hymnal in your pew rack.

Communion Hymn *"For the Fruit of All Creation"* WOV 760

(We Stand)

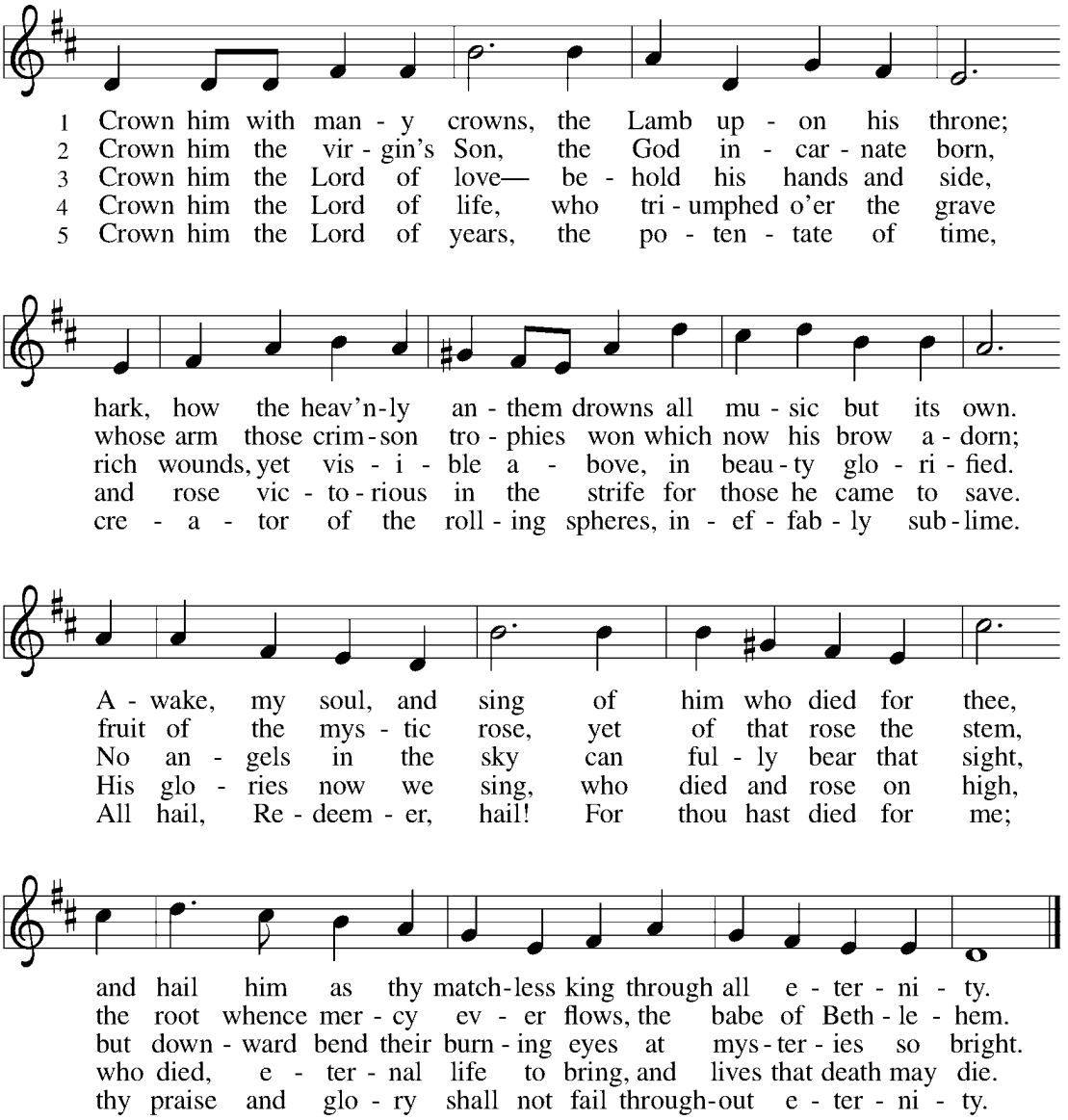
BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

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

BENEDICTION

Almighty and merciful God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you this day and forevermore.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *"Crown Him with Many Crowns"* ELW 855



DISMISSAL
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *"Now Thank We All Our God"* Karg-Elert

Sunday, November 22, 2026
Christ the King Sunday

We Embody the Presence of Christ

It is possible that the biggest barrier to accepting this as our lifelong vocation is not a lack of faith but a lack of imagination.

On this final Sunday of the liturgical year, we receive a parable from Jesus challenging and inspiring our imaginations to grasp our whole vocation that is celebrated in baptism: to embody Christ in every moment and to engage every part of our world as Christ's redeemed creation.

The parable of the sheep and the goats has sometimes been used to instill fear of God's judgment. However, it is possible that Jesus' point here is to urge his disciples to share God's generous saving grace with all. Jesus' parables consistently offer a simple setting and story, but behind them lie a world of rich meaning that takes a lifetime to unpack. For this reason, Jesus' parables are important texts for the postmodern church, which is hungry for story, for connection, and for meaning for our faithful lifelong questions.

With shepherding texts from Ezekiel and the Psalms as well as Ephesians, an epistle written to build faith, we have a constellation of texts that make the shape of God's intimate—even incarnational—love of creation. The parable even suggests that being merely intentional about ministry in the name of Jesus is not the point. After all, both "sheep" and "goats" groups are equally shocked at the news that Jesus was present in those relationships involving thirst, imprisonment, and so forth. Instead, Jesus seems to invite us to wonder what's at the deepest foundation of our presence and purpose—and perhaps even walk away faithfully bewildered at the possibilities of God's kingdom being practiced on earth as it is in heaven.

What if we really do embody the presence of Christ?

The Readings on This Day

Hoping to celebrate the lordship of Christ in a world of increasingly secular and non-Christian empires, Pope Pius XI inaugurated a Sunday dedicated to Christ as King in 1925. Originally Roman Catholics celebrated Christ the King on the last Sunday in October, to precede the feast of All Saints, but also to counter the Protestant celebration of the Reformation. When the Roman Catholics proposed the three-year lectionary after the Second Vatican Council, Christ the King was moved to the final Sunday of the liturgical year. The Revised Common Lectionary has retained the festival. Its emphasis on the eschatological majesty of Christ leads well into Advent.

Matthew 25:31-46

Extraordinarily influential throughout the history of Christianity, this parable has often functioned as "law," the command to care for the neighbor that is bolstered with the threat of hell. As "gospel" we see the parable as affirming the continuing presence of Christ in our midst. The risen Lord is not far away in some heaven but is present around us every day.

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

The passage from Ezekiel was chosen to parallel Matthew's parable, since it also uses imagery of the king, judge, shepherd, good and bad flocks. Christians have seen in Ezekiel's promise of a shepherd like David a description of Jesus Christ. This very Sunday we are fed by this shepherd with both words we can eat and bread and wine we share.

Ephesians 1:15-23

This prayer and creed were chosen on this Sunday to laud the triune God—the Father of glory, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the spirit of wisdom and revelation—and to affirm faith in the continuing authority of the risen Christ as ruler over everything. We are the saints who receive Christ's spirit of wisdom; we have been enlightened to see Christ's power at work; we are the body of Christ on earth.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of R.H., Ruth, and Steve Caughman by Jimmy and Charlotte Compton, Virl Caughman and Grandchildren.

SERVING TODAY:

Ushers: (8:30) Reuben Eargle, Sandy Shealy, Jim Nantz, Daryl Hooker, and Rick Loging;
(11:00) Otis Rawl, G Kolb, Mike Burgess, Myra Strock, Roy Windham, and George Mathias
Cantor/Conductor: Hal McIntosh
Organist: Frances Webb
Greeters: (8:30) Christy Hooker; (11:00) Brittany Herring
Readers: (8:30) Marty Nantz; (11:00) Johnnie Peechatka
Communion Assistants: (8:30) Paul Austin; (11:00) Cathy Mathias
Order of St. Stephen's: (8:30) [A] Caroline Hooker [C] Katy Hooker;
(11:00) [A] Cole Cegelis [C] Aaron Cegelis

The Church Staff **Website: www.sslc.org**

The Rev. Jason T. Antley
The Rev. Ralph G. Hill
Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life
Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator
Ms. Susan Wilson, Director of Music/Organist
Mrs. Julie Tworzyanski, Preschool Director
Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

Sunday School Information:

Locations for Children's Classes		**Locations for Adult Classes**
Nursery – Room #105		**Agape Adult Class** Room #102 (Closest to Narthex)
2—4 year olds & 5K – Room #103		**Saints & Sinners with PJ and PR** Room #203 (Large Upstairs Room)
1st—5th Grade – Room # 216		
6th—8th Grade – Room #212		For those not attending a Sunday School class but waiting on a child who is in one, feel free to gather in the Social Hall!
9th—12th Grade – Room #217		If you are interested in beginning a new Sunday School class please contact Mrs. Shannon.

If you are not receiving the weekly announcements and monthly newsletter via email and would like to receive them, please email Shannon (Shannon@sslc.org) so she can add you to the distribution list.

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