

Year A; Christ the King Sunday
Liturgical Elements
Developed for November 26, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
- Psalm 100
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Matthew 25:31-46

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 100*)

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

All: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

One: Know that the Lord is God.

All: It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

One: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

All: Give thanks to him, bless his name.

One: For the Lord is good;

All: his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Let us worship God.

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Matthew 25*)

One day, our Lord, as a just and merciful God, will separate the sheep from the goats — those who will inherit the Father's Kingdom and those who will be sent to eternal punishment. Many may be surprised with where they are sent. Let us acknowledge God's rule and Christ's kingship. Let us confess our sins.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Matthew 25*)

Everlasting God, you come to us in the ordinary person — the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and the imprisoned. The blessing we give the ordinary person, you identify personally. But we have, also, failed to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, give clothing to the naked, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned. These acts, you also identify personally. Forgive where we have failed to care for the troubled and the weak in this world. Give us focus, resolve, and a willingness to set aside other demands to care for these, your people. We pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will one day judge the living and the dead. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Matthew 25*)

Christ will one day separate the sheep from the goats, but our identity has not yet been fully made known to the world or, perhaps, even to ourselves. Let us change our ways and trust in God's mercy and goodness. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from Ephesians 1:15-23*)

Heavenly Father, you offer us an abundance of benefits. You give us a hope in our calling, riches of glorious inheritance with all your saints, and immeasurable greatness in your power to us who believe. You used your great power to work in Christ and raise him from the dead. You seated him at your right hand in the heavenly places above all rulers and authority and power and dominion. No earthly or heavenly power is greater than he today and for all time. He is the head of all things in the church including this assembly here, which he has accepted as his body. Take these gifts to empower Christ's body in acts of love throughout the world. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Matthew 25*)

Almighty and loving God, as we remember those we have lost this year and in years past, we are reminded of your promise to them and to us. You promise that those who are in Christ Jesus will be saved for eternal life — a destiny we do not deserve but you graciously offer. We offer our thanks for your love of us. Thank you, also, for those who have come before us, cared for us, and taught us the faith. In response to your goodness, we offer these tithes for your work on earth. Amen.¹

¹ also written as a part of Remembrance Sunday service

Elements in this document are based on the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV). Some portions are direct quotes; though, quotation marks and designations are usually left out for ease of use in bulletins and other worship resources. Usually, the Call to Worship is based upon the Psalm of the day and follows that Psalm very closely but modifying it for a leader vs. congregation responsive setting if necessary. Other elements usually deviate more significantly from the text. While they may quote very short sections, they are generally written in the theme of the text. Elements usually designate the book and chapter from which they are derived.

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