Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral



by Martin Erspamer, osb

The Last Sunday after Pentecost

Christ the King

November 22, 2026 • 8 a.m.

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

- Thank you for joining us for worship today at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral. If you are new to the Cathedral, we invite you to fill out our welcome card. Welcome cards are available in the pews or text GUEST to 816-310-1888.
- If you need a hearing assistance device, please ask an usher. Instructions to connect via Bluetooth are on the back table.
- Gendered restrooms are available in Founders' Hall. A non-gendered, accessible restroom is available at west end (rear) of the Cathedral.

Service Notes

- Please rise, as able, for portions of the service marked with an asterisk (*).
- Donations may be placed in the offering, made through the Cathedral website: **kccathedral.org**, by scanning the QR code to the right or by texting "GIVEtoGHTC" to 73256. Tap to give using the display in the Tower entrance. Instructions for use are next to the machine. *Thank you for your generosity.*

Holy Eucharist

Voluntary: A Meditation — Thomas James Crawford (1877-1955)

* Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity — page 355

Presider — Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People — **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider — 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.**

* Gloria — page 356

All

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 Word of God

* Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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 Lessons

First Lesson: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Lector 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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 100 *read in* ***unison*** page 729

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
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.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23

Lector 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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

* The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Gospeller Jesus said, "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.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

All **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.

* Prayers of the People

adapted from *Hear Our Prayer: Prayers of the People for the Revised Common Lectionary*

Intercessor — Lord Christ, we offer ourselves to your service and love; hear these prayers offered now in your name as we say, hear us, O God, and answer our prayer.

The assembly of God's people, the Church, are your hands and feet in this world; grant us courage and wisdom as we seek to continue your mission in the world. We pray especially for those on this week's Diocesan Cycle of Prayer.

Hear us, O God,

People — **and answer our prayer.**

Intercessor — Endow are nation with your peace and embolden us to bring the light of your love to our neighbors, that we might dispel the darkness of fear and hatred.

Hear us, O God,

People — **and answer our prayer.**

Intercessor — Open our eyes, our hearts, and our hands to see and respond to the needs of our neighbors; and to respond with joy and energy so that your love is made manifest in their lives.

Hear us, O God,

People — **and answer our prayer.**

Intercessor — Grant us the spirits of wisdom, curiosity, and persistence, as we seek to weave sustainable practices into our lives; that we might better protect and preserve the bountiful abundance of your creation.

Hear us, O God,

People — **and answer our prayer.**

Intercessor — Deliver us from fear and anxiety, that we might be healers; bring to wholeness all that is broken, and grant peace and deliverance to all who suffer. We especially pray for those on our Cathedral prayer list, and for any others you wish to name either silently or aloud,

Hear us, O God,

People — **and answer our prayer.**

Intercessor — Welcome the dying into your arms, envelop the grieving with your strength, and lift the dread of death from our hearts by increasing our faith and securing our hope in your promises. Especially we pray for those we now name,

Hear us, O God,

People — **and answer our prayer.**

Presider — Christ our king and only Lord, we offer you ourselves: our very souls and bodies; that we might participate in the building of your kingdom in our lives and in the world; and we offer you our praise and glory; hosanna in the highest! In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

page 360

Deacon — Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All

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.

Presider — 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 Peace

page 360

Presider — The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People — **And also with you.**

Announcements

Celebration Prayer

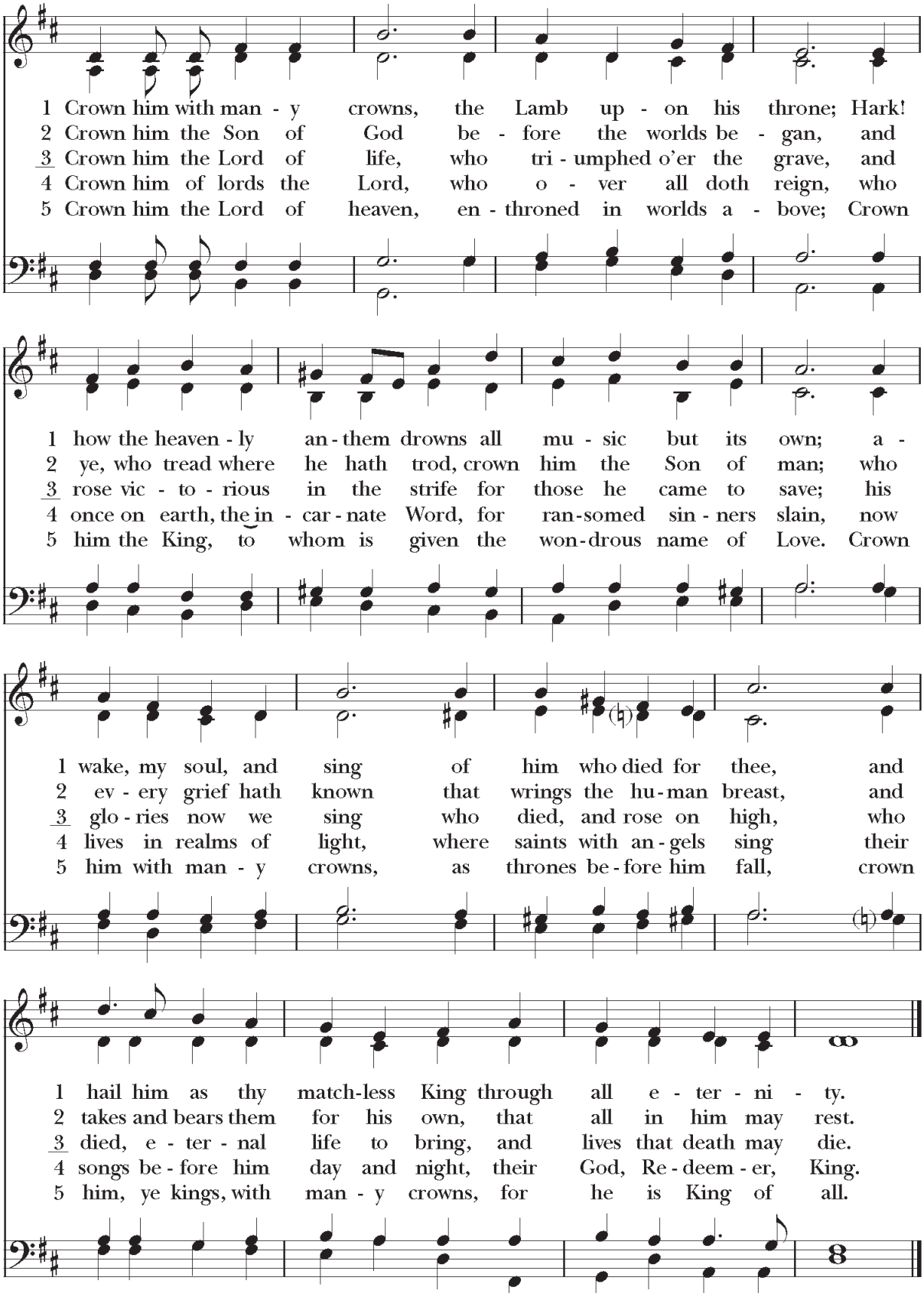
All — **O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as** *they* **begin another year. Grant that** *they* **may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen** *their* **trust in your goodness all the days of** *their lives***; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

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

Offertory Hymn: 494 "Crown him with many crowns"



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Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

All **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.

Presider Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Presider We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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.

All **AMEN.**

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All

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.

* Breaking of the Bread

page 364

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

People **have mercy on us.**

Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

People **have mercy on us.**

Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

People **grant us peace.**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion

All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.
For gluten-free bread, cross your hands palms down.
For a blessing, cross your hands over your chest.

* Postcommunion Prayer

page 366

Presider Let us pray.

All

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

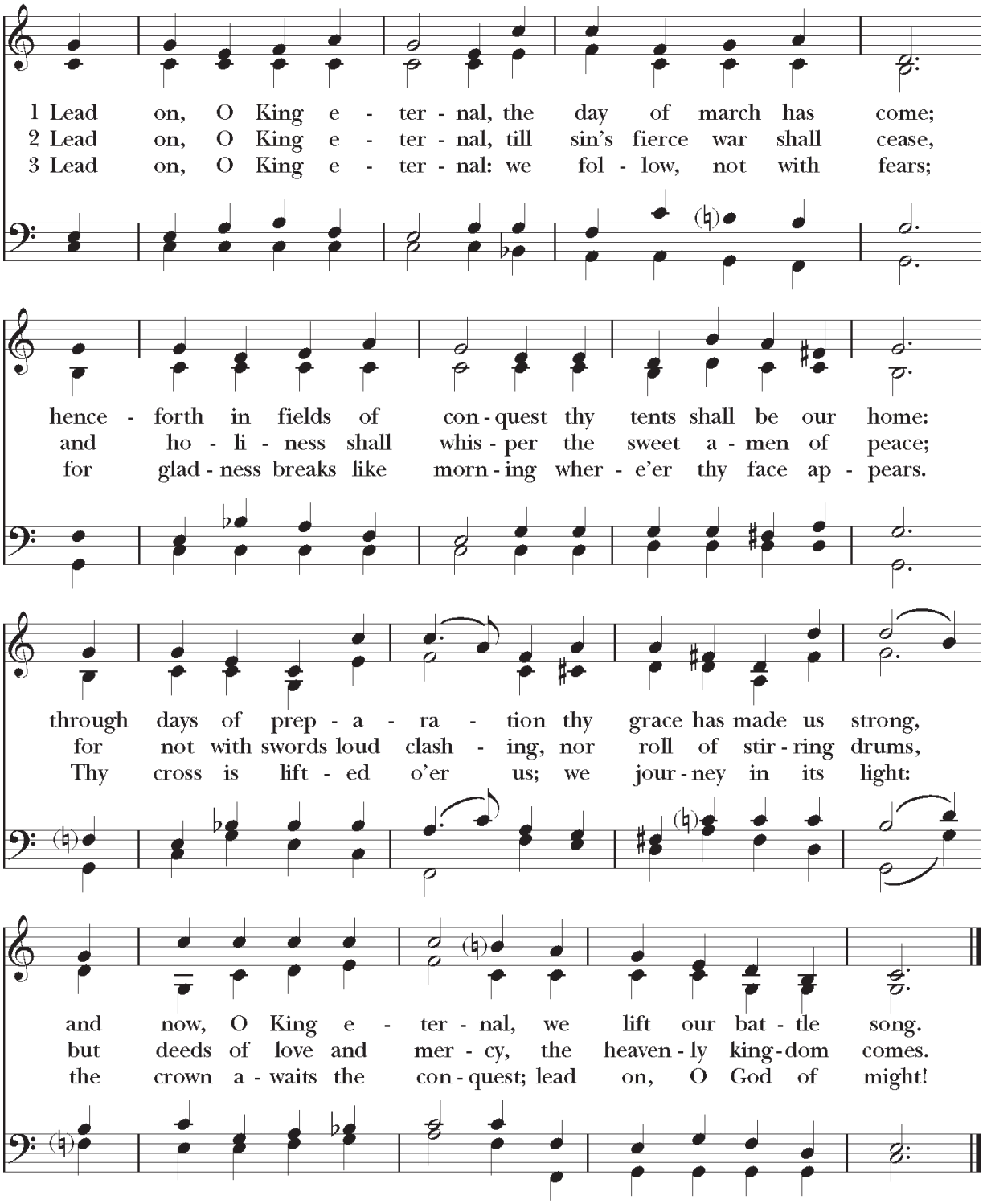
* The Blessing

* Dismissal

Following the dismissal,

People **Thanks be to God.**

* Closing Hymn: 555 "Lead on, O King eternal"



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Voluntary: Plein jeu; Caprice sur les grands jeux (*Suite du Deuxième Ton*) Louis-Nicolaus Clérambault (1676-1749)

Following the service today, swing by Founders' Hall for coffee and good company.

Serving Today

Presider	The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse
Preacher	The Rev. Canon W. James Yazell
Deacon of the Word	The Rev. Robin Rusconi
Deacon of the Table	The Rev. Barbara Wegener
Organist	Dr. Lucas Fletcher
Lector	Rebecca Rezaei
Eucharistic Minister	Jennifer Mason
Usher	Dave Patt
Altar Guild	Candy McDowell, Caroline John

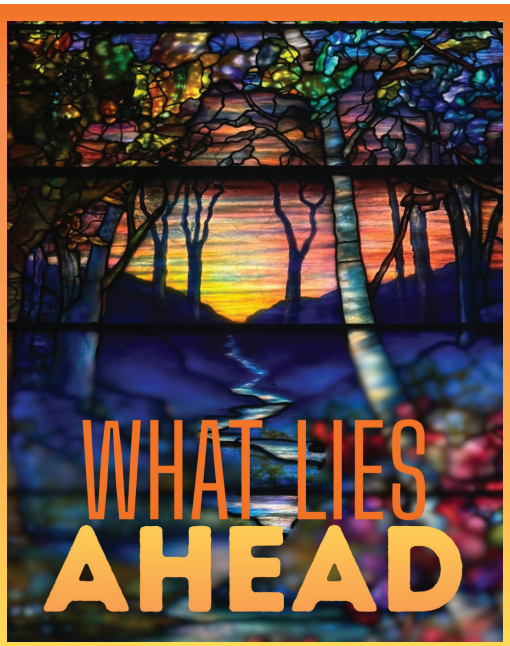
STEWARDSHIP 2027

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

Thank you to all who have already returned a 2027 pledge. Your generosity helps us plan faithfully for the year ahead and supports the worship, care, formation, and outreach of this parish. If you have not yet made your pledge, we invite you to do so prayerfully in the coming days.

Our Pledge Ingathering will be Sunday, December 6.

Learn more or make your pledge at *kccathedral.org/stewardship*.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Please contact the Cathedral office (jtoma@kccathedral.org) if we have omitted your birthday or anniversary.

November 22
Sandra Mauro

November 23
Clint Saunders

November 24
Troy Sorbo

November 25
Anne Morse
Bennie Lewis & Paula Livingston-Lewis

November 27
Carolyn McLeroy
Isaac Epley
RoseLee Harrison
Stephanie Newton

Today's altar flowers

Today's flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of in thanksgiving for the life of Phyllis Ryder by Patti Ryder and Sheila Denton.



Donations toward the weekly flowers can be given by anyone and are accepted in any amount.
For more information: *kccathedral.org/flowers*.

This Week at GHTC

Learn more about our weekly services & opportunities for study and fellowship: kccathedral.org

Sunday, November 22

8 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9 a.m.	Coffee Hour
9:15 a.m.	Adult Formation: Celebrating the Saints
9:15 a.m.	Youth Formation
9:30 a.m.	Rehearsal: Trinity Choir
10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist*
10:30 a.m.	Cathedral Kids
11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
5 p.m.	Holy Eucharist
7 p.m.	Friends of Dorothy AA Meeting

Monday, November 23

6 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

Tuesday, November 24

12:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study+
6:45 p.m.	Lectionary Bible Study+

Wednesday, November 25 | Office Closed

12 p.m.	Noonday Prayer*
12 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

Thursday, November 26 | Office Closed

10 a.m.	Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Friday, November 27 | Office Closed

Saturday, November 28

9 a.m.	Advent Decorating & Altar Guild Workday

Sunday, November 29

8 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
9 a.m.	Coffee Hour
9:15 a.m.	Adult Formation: Celebrating the Saints
9:15 a.m.	Youth Formation
9:30 a.m.	Rehearsal: Trinity Choir
10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist* (Family Worship)
11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
5 p.m.	Holy Eucharist
7 p.m.	Friends of Dorothy AA Meeting

+On Zoom **In person service streamed on YouTube @kccathedral*

Cathedral Prayer List

To place a person on this prayer list,
text PRAYER to (816) 310-1888 or
email Deacon Barbara Wegener, bwegener@kccathedral.org.
View the prayer list anytime: *kccathedral.org/prayers*

Pray for: Matt Frost; Caleb and family; Gail and her family; Matalin Jones; Nelda; Deacon Suzie Lynch; Jessica Knox; Ralph Wallace; Kevin Carril; Ellen Spake; Peg Brown; Pope Leo; Sarahi; Rose Wrede; Mary Margaret Saxon; Mary Breese; Brend; The family and friends of Mary Martha Stevens; Barbara Liming, Kerry Rush, Vick Ross & families; Sherry Candillo; John Manley; Mike Bennett; Joyce; Larry Bilotta; George Parry; Rick Jordahl; Marcille McCandless; Mike Barzee & Family; Phineas Gitta; Those fighting chronic illness; Iris Parsons; Wayne Alexander; Gloria Stocks; Jim Royer; Joyce Morrow; Thaddeus Samuel Withers; Yvonne Kehoe Meier; Jeffrey and family; Charlotte Colburn; Those affected by gun violence; First Responders; Immigrants

Diocesan Prayer Cycle: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Monett—The Rev. Angi Tharakan, Long-Term Supply Priest; The Rev. Dr. Anita Scott Philbrock, Deacon; Mrs. Linda Schelin, Bishop's Warden

Deacons of the Diocese; Archdeacon, the Ven. Carol Peterson

Pray for the Departed: Leslie Johnson; Rev. Sam Mann; Rev. Mark McGuire; Rhegan Spiegel; Jim Leuthold; Haywood Walker, Jr.; Robert Dean Melton; Randal Loy; Joshua Lewis; those lost in war; those who have died from gun violence; Military members killed in action

For all first responders, military members and their families, especially: Russell Neice; Col. Brian Chellgren (retired); Ensign Brock Chellgren; Jonathan Wegener; Taya Velasco; Ethan Bergeron; Alexandria Puls; Capt. Aryk Bingham; Cpt. Charles Lewis, Jr.; Adam; Anita Feugate Opperman; Charles Braden Fowler; Colin Walker; Connor Spake; James Brown; John K. Baker; Joshua Gordon; Lt. Col. Kevin Thomas; Lexi Puls; Nick; Patrick Williams; Steve Conner; The Rev. Ben Newland

Cathedral Staff: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse, *Dean;* The Rev. Canon W. James Yazell, *Canon for Adult Formation;* The Rev. Barbara Wegener, *Deacon;* The Rev. Robin Rusconi, *Deacon;* Dr. Lucas Fletcher, *Director of Music;* Julie Toma, *Cathedral Administrator;* Holly Campbell, *Events Coordinator;* Steve Berman, *Finance Coordinator;* Dr. Joan Bergstrom, *Sacristan & Volunteer Coordinator;* Courtney Fletcher, *Choral Conductor,* Angie Graham, *Facility Manager;* Bianca Jackson, *Assistant Facility Manager;* The Very Rev. Peter J. DeVeau, *Dean Emeritus;* Canon John Schaefer, *Canon Musician Emeritus*

The Vestry: Steve Moore, *Senior Warden, smoore@skeltonmoore.com*; Nigel Jones, *Junior Warden, redbox712@gmail.com*, (405) 747-6550; Chip Buckner, *Treasurer;* Colin Chambers, *Clerk*; Bill Boyd; Julie Brogno; Pat Decker; Steve King; Blain Lagergren; Christine Morrison; Mathias Nichols; Charles Shipley; Janet Stewart Sweeting

Upcoming Music Events

For more info: kccathedral.org/musicevents

The Nativity Puppets

Friday, December 4 |10 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Saturday, December 5 | 2 & 5 p.m.; Sunday, December 6 | 2 p.m.

This celebrated annual spectacle comes alive with larger than life, seven-foot puppets and live voices, singers, and musicians for this classic enactment. For details and to purchase tickets, visit nativitypuppets.org. Discounted tickets with code: NPChurch

The City Come Again

Monday, December 14 | 12 p.m.

Since 1982, William Jewell College has partnered with Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral to present this gift to the city in words and music, featuring the choirs from William Jewell College. This event is free. The prelude begins at 11:30 a.m.

Concert: Kansas City Chorale "Alpine Christmas"

Friday, December 11 | 7:30 p.m.

The Kansas City Chorale presents this festive concert that will transport you to the enchanting world of German carols, including lush adaptations of "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night), "O Tannenbaum" (O Christmas Tree), "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and other timeless favorites. Since the debut performance in 1982, the GRAMMY®-winning Kansas City Chorale has provided audiences with a high caliber of choral artistry, performing a diverse repertoire of new and traditional music. For tickets, kcchorale.org

Messiah Singalong

Saturday, December 12 | 2 p.m.

Lift your voice and be part of the music as our cherished annual Messiah Singalong returns! Everyone is invited to join the chorus for Handel's beloved masterpiece, accompanied by soloists and orchestra in a joyful, unforgettable afternoon. Bring your own score or purchase one for $10, then get ready to sing along. Admission is free—come share in the sound, spirit, and celebration of the season. Reception in Founders' Hall during intermission.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 13 | 5 p.m.

The Service of Advent Lessons and Carols weaves together Scripture readings and sacred music to recount the story of salvation. Worshippers are invited into a season of hopeful anticipation and reflection as Christmas draws near. Following the service, all are invited to a reception in the Common Room.

Concert: Candlelight, Carols & Cathedral

Friday, December 18 | 7:30 p.m.

The William Baker Festival Singers & Friends present this concert of exquisite beauty and wonder that includes beloved carols for the audience to sing, the telling of the Christmas story in traditional scripture, and beautiful choral music from the voices of Kansas City's beloved a cappella choir. For tickets, festivalsingers.org.

Concert: Astra Ensemble "Radiant Dawn"

Saturday, December 19 | 7 p.m.

The oldest reason people sing in December is also the simplest: the year turns at its darkest point, and the light comes back. Radiant Dawn gathers Astra Ensemble's eight voices in a beautiful space, where early polyphony and contemporary works sit side by side. You'll hear music that traces light breaking through darkness, crafted for close listening and shared breath. The year turns at its darkest point, and the light comes back. For tickets, astraensemble.com.

Today's Focal St. John's Bible Illumination

Christ the King

"Last Judgment" Illumination (Matthew 25: 31-46)

Christ the King Sunday serves as a theological bridge between the liturgical seasons of Ordinary Time and Advent. Lectionary readings emphasize the redemptive and healing nature of Christ's kingship. The Gospel Reading makes clear that Christ's reign is the inverse of that exercised by worldly rulers. He isn't just found on an elevated celestial throne but is actively present amid the suffering of marginalized people. When we serve the vulnerable, we are serving the King. In the Old Testament Reading, God condemns corrupt earthly leaders ("shepherds") who feed themselves but neglect their flocks. God promises to rescue the lost, heal the injured, and unify the scattered flock. The Epistle Reading addresses the cosmic scale of Christ's triumph. As the "Body of Christ," the church is called to embody his presence and be an agent of his justice in the world. Today's readings from the Psalter remind us that "we are God's people and the sheep of his pasture." Therefore, we should approach him with gratitude and joy. Collectively, these readings prompt us to remain attentive to the fact that our ultimate allegiance belongs to God rather than to the transient powers of this world.

The "Last Judgment" illumination portrays the reality that we now live in the period between Christ's incarnation and his return. In this scene we find significant darkness and chaos in the lefthand section of the painting, but openness, brightness, and indicators of God's presence in the righthand portion. The central panel features arches and open spaces which constitute the heart of the portrayal. Here the cross and the circle meet, suggesting the reconciling work of Christ. The righthand portion features additional crosses and circles that bisect. At the bottom is a hope-inspiring patch of green foliage. These images remind us that we live in the "in-between" period.

All of the illuminations of Matthew's Gospel in the Saint John's Bible in some way convey what it means that the Messiah has broken into history. Each portrayal presents a vision of Christ defeating the powers of sin, death, and chaos. But the approaching Advent reminds us that the coming of the kingdom is gradual. It requires patience, vigilance, and preparation. God's work in our midst is ongoing, but the everyday activities of life can blind us to that working and result in spiritual indifference and deadness.

Today's illumination uses the same colors for portraying the world in the lefthand section as it does for depicting the Kingdom of God in the righthand portion. However, the quality and effect are quite different. The continuity of color is intended to convey the message that Christ's work is not a total break with the world but is a transformation of it. The old order of sin, chaos, and death will be transformed into the Kingdom of God.



The "Judgment of the Nations" passage in today's Matthew reading confronts us with a haunting challenge portrayed in the "Last Judgment" illumination – serving Christ is about what we do or fail to do, not just what we confess or claim we believe. Here we are challenged to see Jesus in places where we would prefer not to look or go. We are reminded that every encounter with "the least of these" is also somehow an encounter with Jesus. What, then, shall we do?

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Upcoming Events | Announcements

For more info and RSVP links: kccathedral.org/events

Thanksgiving Day Service

Thursday, November 26 | 10 a.m.

Join your church family to celebrate and express gratitude on Thanksgiving Day at our 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist service.

Office Closed for Thanksgiving

The Cathedral office is closed November 25-27 in honor of Thanksgiving. If you have a pastoral emergency, contact Dean Andy at 256-762-5889, Canon James at 816-739-2930 or Deacon Barbara at 816.739.8032. *Noon Wednesday 12:05 p.m. Eucharist service but Noonday Prayer will be online.*

Deck the (Cathedral) Halls for Advent!

Saturday, November 28 | 9 a.m.

The joyous season of Advent is almost upon us, and we invite you to help make our Cathedral ready for Advent, spreading cheer and anticipation as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. All ages are welcome! The Altar Guild will also meet for their pre-Christmas workday.

Women's Bible Study

Beginning December 1, WBS will begin Rev. Tim Schenck's *Dog in the Manger: Finding God in Christmas Chaos* for our Advent study. The focus of the book is to maintain our spiritual sanity through the often-frenetic chaos of Advent and Christmas. *Dog in the Manger* also explores the major characters of the season in new ways, including John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph and of course, Jesus. We hope you can join us.

Advent Workshop

Sunday, December 6, 11:45 a.m.

All are invited for fun and fellowship at our service-oriented Advent Workshop in Founders' Hall. We are partnering with local organizations by preparing toiletry kits for distribution.

Coming Soon

December 4-6 | The Nativity Puppets
December 12 | Messiah Singalong, 2 p.m.
December 13 | Advent Lessons & Carols, 5 p.m.
December 14 | City Come Again, 12 p.m. prelude at 11:30 a.m.
December 20| Outreach: Pete's Garden Lid Labeling
December 24 | Christmas Eve, 5 p.m. & 10 p.m.
December 25 | Christmas Day, 10 a.m.

Outreach

Learn more: kccathedral.org/outreach

Sock and Glove drive for Shelter KC in November & December



During the months of November and December, we are collecting warm socks and gloves for both men and women. These will be donated to Shelter KC at both the men's and women's centers.
Bring items to the basket in the Tower entrance.

Help Pete's Garden by Labeling Lids

December 20, January 17
9:15 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.

Volunteer with fellow parishioners during coffee hour to put labels on the containers that will be used to package meals for families in need by Pete's Garden. This is a great opportunity to help at Pete's Garden. All ages are welcome; younger children should have a parent present.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program

Saturday, December 19, January 16
8 a.m.-noon

We help St. Paul's on Main organize and distribute food as part of TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program). Friendly volunteers are needed to break down pallets of shelf-stable and frozen food from Harvesters, repackage the food into family-sized portions and then hand out the food. To volunteer or for more information, contact Deacon Barbara 816.739.8032 or bwegener@kccathedral.org.