



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



CHRIST THE KING
NOVEMBER 23, 2025

AS WE GATHER



There is a phrase familiar to both preschoolers and powerbrokers. When they see that someone else has something they want, they declare, "That's mine!" seizing either toys or territory for themselves. This phrase is not unfamiliar to our God either. But where humans are motivated by selfishness, the Lord acts out of love. He claims you as His own because He loves you and He wants you to be with Him for eternity. You are His treasured possession! He will never leave you behind like a toddler may accidentally abandon her teddy bear or neglect you like a king would treat those who supported his rival. When the Lord says, "You are Mine," you have His pledge of enduring faithfulness, today and unto eternity!

PRELUDE

TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

Stand

INVOCATION HYMN

837 Lift High the Cross

Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,



Refrain

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com-bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

EXHORTATION

1 John 1:8–9

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel | Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

John 20:19–23

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

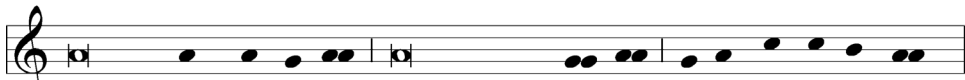
Mark 10:47



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



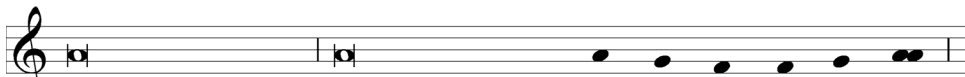
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



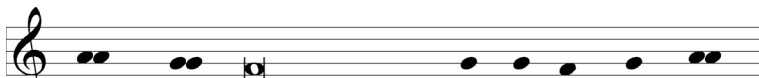
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

FESTIVAL CANTICLE | Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You

take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a-lone are the
Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

L The Old Testament Reading is from Malachi, chapter 3.

“Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against you?’ You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.’”

Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. “They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7

L God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

C Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

L There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

C God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.

L The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

C The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

L Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

- C** He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
- L** “Be still, and know that I am God.
- C** I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”
- L** The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

EPISTLE

Colossians 1:13–20

- L** The Epistle is from Colossians, chapter 1.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6:68

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
 2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
 3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
 4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
 out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
 tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
 new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
 From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
 Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
 Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
 make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
 will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
 deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

SERMON

The Story of Simon

Pastor Mark Stapleton

Stand

APOSTLE'S CREED

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
 And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Dear heavenly Father, You promise to seek the lost. We pray for all those who have wandered away from Your Church. We pray that You would strengthen us to reach out to them, to receive them with open arms and open hearts when they return home. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Give ear to our cry.

P Lord, You promise to strengthen the weak. Send Your strength and courage to all those who need it, to the aging, the lonely, the tired, and the vulnerable. Protect and defend them from the wolves of this world. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Give ear to our cry.

P Lord, You promise to feed Your sheep with good pasture. Raise up faithful servants and shepherds to share the nourishment of Your Word and Sacraments with all Your sheep. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Give ear to our cry.

P Lord, You promise to rescue Your flock from all enemies. Guard and keep us from the enemies of sin, death, and Satan. Lead us away from temptation and always closer to the arms of our Good Shepherd. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Give ear to our cry.

P Lord, You promise to bind up the injured. Bring Your healing to all those who suffer now through injury, illness, and oppression, [*especially* . . .]. Heal them according to Your good and gracious will. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Give ear to our cry.

P Lord, by Your Word You have told us that the last enemy to be destroyed is death. As we await the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead, we still grieve and mourn when the enemy of death strikes our friends and family. Be near all those who are mourning the death of loved ones, [*especially* . . .]. Comfort them with the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C Give ear to our cry.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE



Use this QR Code to give a one-time or recurring donation to the fund of your choice, by credit/debit card, or checking account.

ANTHEM | 8:00am

Shine the Light of Your Love • Mark Patterson (b.1969)

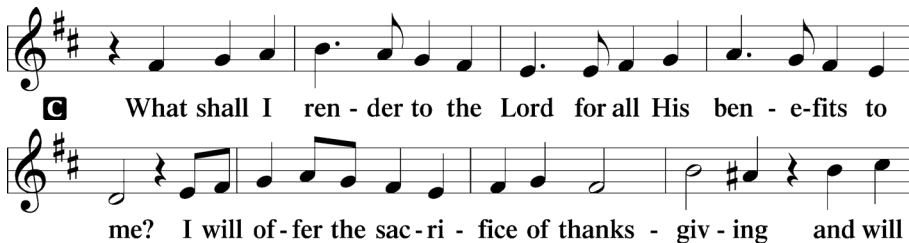
As we wait in darkness for God's holy gift of light.

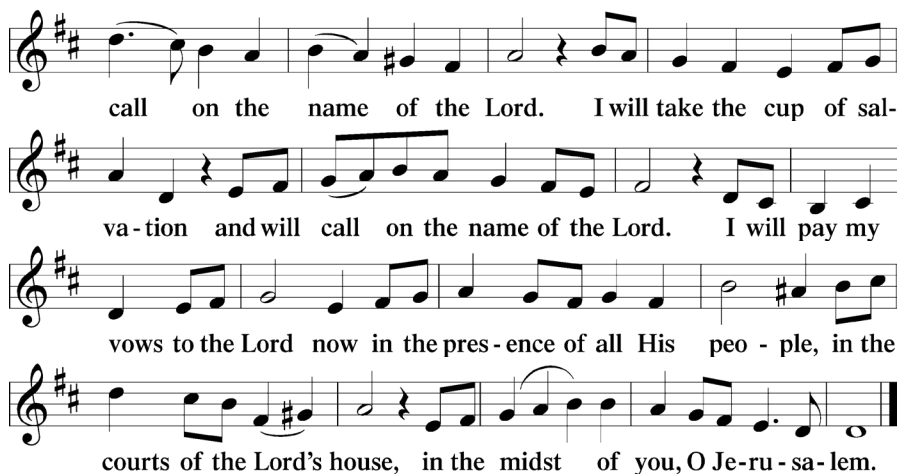
We look for hope, we search for peace, we long for love, we yearn for joy.

Stand

OFFERTORY

Psalms 116:12-13, 17-19





LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.



1 Lord, en - throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor, First - be - got - ten
 2 Though the low - liest form now veil You As of old in
 3 Pas - chal Lamb, Your of - f'ring, fin - ished Once for all when
 4 Life - im - part - ing heav'n - ly man - na, Strick - en rock with



from the dead, You a - lone, our strong de - fend - er,
 Beth - le - hem, Here as there Your an - gels hail You,
 You were slain, In its full - ness un - di - min - ished
 stream - ing side, Heav'n and earth with loud ho - san - na



Lift - ing up Your peo - ple's head. Al - le - lu - ia,
 Branch and flow'r of Jes - se's stem. Al - le - lu - ia,
 Shall for - ev - er - more re - main, Al - le - lu - ia,
 Wor - ship You, the Lamb who died, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus, true and
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! We in wor - ship
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Cleans - ing souls from
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ris'n, as - cend - ed,



liv - ing bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!
 join with them; We in wor - ship join with them.
 ev - 'ry stain; Cleans - ing souls from ev - 'ry stain.
 glo - ri - fied! Ris'n, as - cend - ed, glo - ri - fied!

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist

Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist

Cantata Choir of St. John's | 8:00am

Dana Shinneman, Piano

Sue Kunz, Lector | 8:00am

Kirk Farney, Lector | 10:45am

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE

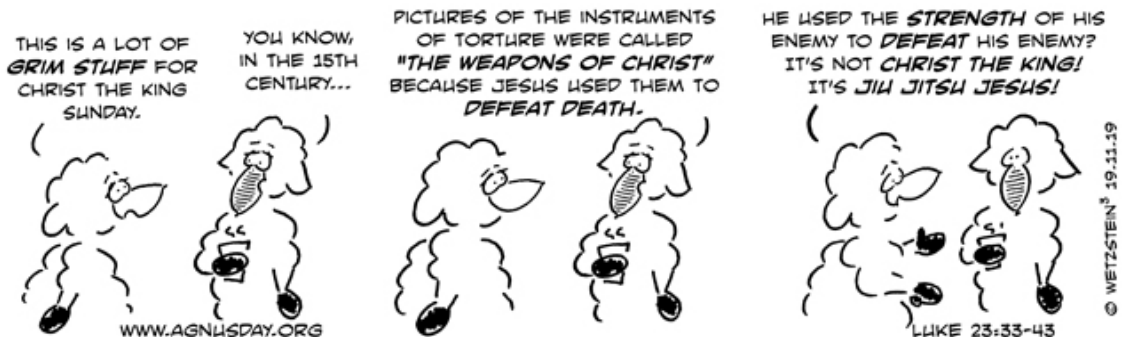
We are holding a 10:00am **THANKSGIVING DAY DIVINE SERVICE** on Thanksgiving Day, November 27. Please join us to give thanks to God for all the blessings bestowed upon us this year.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God in memory of our father Karl Stodden, from Ruth and Ronald Gallman.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Chicago Brass Choir

Open Rehearsal
and
Concert

Open Rehearsal: 2:30PM

Concert: 7PM

Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Church
505 S Park Rd. La Grange, IL 60525

Suggested donation:
\$15



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