

Welcome to Worship at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI  
End Times 4 - Christ the King - November 21, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

**Hymn #243 - "Oh, Worship the King"**

**Oh, worship the King, all-glorious above;  
Oh gratefully sing his pow'r and his love,  
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.**

**Oh, tell of his might; oh, sing of his grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy, space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

**This earth, with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old,  
Established it fast by a changeless decree,  
And round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.**

**Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In you do we trust nor find you to fail.  
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!**

**Confession of Sins:**

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to

grant us forgiveness.

**C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

**P:** Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **First Lesson: Daniel 7:13-14**

I kept watching the night visions, and there, in the clouds of heaven, I saw one like a son of man coming. He came to the Ancient of Days, and he was brought before him. To him was given dominion, honor, and a kingdom. All peoples, nations, and languages will worship him. His dominion is an eternal dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed. (EHV)

### **Psalm 45**

**Refrain: Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Great are the works of the Lord.**

**My heart is stirred by a 'noble theme  
As I recite my verses 'for the King.**

**You are the most excel'lent of men,  
And your lips have been anoint'ed with grace.**

**Gird your sword upon your side, O 'Mighty one;  
Clothe yourself with splendor and 'majesty.**

**In your majesty ride forth vic'toriously;  
Let your right hand display 'awesome deeds.**

**Refrain: Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Great are the works of the Lord.**

**Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ‘ever;  
A scepter of justice will be the scepter of your ‘kingdom.**

**You love righteousness and hate ‘wickedness;  
Therefore God has anointed you with the ‘oil of joy.**

**I will perpetuate your memory through all gener’ations;  
Therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ‘ever.**

**Glory be to the Father and ‘to the Son  
And to the Holy ‘Spirit,  
As it was in the be’ginning,  
Is now, and will be forever. ‘Amen.**

**Refrain: Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Great are the works of the Lord.**

**Second Lesson: Revelation 1:4b-8**

Grace to you and peace from him who is, who was, and who is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his own blood and made us a kingdom and priests to God his Father - to him be the glory and the power forever. Amen. Look, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, including those who pierced him. And all the nations of the earth will mourn because of him. Yes. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, the one who is, and who was, and who is coming, the Almighty. (EHV)

**Verse of the Day:** Alleluia. I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Alleluia.

**Gospel: John 18:33-37**

Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my

servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.” “You are a king then?” Pilate asked. Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” (EHV)

### **The Apostles’ Creed:**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

### **Hymn #356 - “*You Are the Way; through You Alone*”**

**You are the way; through you alone  
Can we the Father find;  
In you, O Christ, has God revealed  
His heart and will and mind.**

**You are the truth; your Word alone  
True wisdom can impart.  
You only can inform the mind  
And purify the heart.**

**You are the life; the empty tomb  
Proclaims your conqu’ring arm,  
And those who put their trust in you  
Not death nor hell shall harm.**

**You are the way, the truth, the life;  
Grant us that way to know,**

**That truth to keep, that life to win  
Whose joys eternal flow.**

**The Sermon: Revelation 1:4b-8  
“Amen To The Church Year”**

Today is the **last** Sunday of the church year in the Christian calendar - Christ the **King** Sunday. Another year of God's grace is coming to an end - another year of opportunities to **enrich** our faith, and to **serve** our Lord is reaching a **conclusion**. The end of the church year reminds us of a couple of sobering truths. First of all, there will be an **end** to each of our **lives**. And second, there will be an end to **everything**. On the Last Day our entire **universe** will be completely **destroyed**. So, how should we **close out** our church year? When we think about our gracious **God** - and the gift of His **Son** - and His eternal **rule** - and His promise to **come again** to bring us into His glory - there's only **one word** which says it **all**, and that's **Amen**. We use **Amen** to mark the end of our **prayers**, the end of a **sermon**, and the end of a **worship service**. **Amen** is a word of **faith** - a word which literally means: this is **true**. So in our worship service today, we're going to say **Amen To The Church Year**.

We'll start out today by taking a look at our **God**. Our God is a **great** God - a God who deserves our **praise** forever. We can certainly say **Amen** to that. Just think about how God **greet**s us in the opening words of John's letter to the seven churches, which serves as our **text** for today. He wrote, "*Grace to you and peace from him who is, who was, and who is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.*" Grace and peace. **Grace** is God's attitude of **favor** and **kindness** to us - a blessing that we sinners did **nothing** to **deserve**. In His **grace** God had His Son become **poor**, so we could be made **rich** through the **forgiveness** of our sins. In His **grace** God gave us the gift of the **Holy Spirit**, who would enable us to **believe** in Jesus, and to have **eternal life**. And **peace** is the condition in our hearts that **results** from God's grace. As Paul told the Romans, "*Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God.*"

This grace and peace come from the **Triune God** - and all three **persons** of the godhead are **described** here. First of all there is God the **Father** - "*from Him who is, who was, and who is coming.*" God the Father **is** our ever present help in trouble. Even before He created the world God the Father **was** - He has **existed** from all eternity. And God the Father will visit this world **once more** on the Last Day. Next there is the **Holy Spirit**. John describes Him as, "*the seven spirits that*

are before his throne.” Why **seven** spirits? That comes directly from the prophecy of **Isaiah**, where the Holy Spirit is described in this seven-fold way, “*The Spirit of the **LORD** will rest on Him - the Spirit of **wisdom** and of **understanding**, the Spirit of **counsel** and of **power**, the Spirit of **knowledge** and of the **fear** of the **LORD**.*” And finally there is God the **Son**. John continues, “*and from **Jesus Christ**, the faithful **witness**, the firstborn from the **dead**, and the ruler of the **kings** of the earth.*” Jesus is the faithful **witness**. He testifies to the **truth** that “*The Son of man was lifted up on the cross so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*” Jesus is the firstborn from the **dead**. He joined Himself to our humanity **completely**, so He even experienced **death**. But after He suffered the **punishment** for the sins of the world, and even endured the tortures of **hell itself**, He **rose** again from the dead. His resurrection **proved** that His death had **paid** for the sins of the world, and that He had **smashed** the power of death. Jesus is the **Lord** of life and death, and He guarantees to all who **believe** in Him that **they too** will **live** for all eternity. Jesus is the **ruler** of the kings of the earth. He is **above** all earthly powers.

Then John bursts out with **praise** for Jesus as he writes, “*To him who loves us and has **freed** us from our sins by his own **blood** and made us a **kingdom** and **priests** to God his Father - to him be the **glory** and the **power** forever. **Amen.**” Jesus has made us to be a **kingdom** and **priests** to serve His God and Father. That’s an **unusual** combination - kings **and** priests. We find it in the Old Testament in a man named **Melchizedek**, who was both **King** of Salem, and **Priest** of the Most High God - and we also find it **again** in the first letter of **Peter** where he says, “*You are a chosen people, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may **declare the praises** of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.*”*

In that passage, Peter also shows us **why** God has made us both **kings** and **priests** - that we may declare the praises of our **God** with lives of **service**. Although we continue to be sinful human beings, because of **Jesus** we are **better** than we were before - **infinitely** better. **That** fact should bring us comfort **too** - **especially** when we’re feeling **depressed** or **down** on ourselves. Because of **Jesus**, we have **no reason** to have a **low** opinion of ourselves. Jesus has made us **kingly priests**, or **priestly kings**. We can live **sacrificial** lives of repentance, prayer, praise, and thanksgiving for our Lord; and at the same time we can live **apart from** the common **rabble** of this world. Our lives can be **positive** and **confident**, even in the face of **extreme** hardship. We can do what is **good**, rather than what is **bad** - we can choose to be **happy** rather than **sad** - we can overcome **pain**, and **sorrow**, and even **death** itself - we can do **all things** in this life through **Christ**, who gives us **strength**.

As John expresses his **personal** belief in the greatness of Jesus, he concludes his praise with the word "**Amen**" - this is **true**. And we can chime in together **with** John. Jesus is **truly worthy** of our honor and praise. He **loves** us - He has **freed** us from our sins by His own **blood** - and He has made us a **kingdom** and **priests**. When we consider that our sins had **chained** us to **Satan**, and that because of them we were doomed to be imprisoned in **hell**, it's more than **obvious** that Jesus **deserves** our **praise** for **freeing** us from those sins. Jesus is our **King**. He didn't send someone **else** to do the dirty work, but our King did it **Himself**. Jesus wrestled with the devil, and gave up His **life** to **free** us from our sins. "*To him be the glory and the power forever. Amen.*" There it is **again**. It's **true** that Jesus **deserves** all **glory** and **power**. May everything we **do** be for His glory - all our eating and drinking - all our working and playing.

And finally John writes, "*Look, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, including those who pierced him. And all the nations of the earth will mourn because of him. Yes. Amen.*" The Bible promises that Jesus will **return** to this world at the end of time. He will appear **visibly** - with a multitude of **angels** surrounding Him as He sits on His kingly **throne**. Every eye will **see** Him - including even those Roman soldiers who **mocked** Him, and **beat** Him, and nailed Him to the **cross**. All the people of the earth will **mourn** because of Him - that is, all the **earthly** people, those who live for this **world** and the **things** of this world.

But **not everyone** will mourn when Jesus returns. **Believers** will **rejoice**. Consider the man in the Old Testament named **Job**. He longed for the day when he would see his Savior. Job said, "*I know that my Redeemer **lives**, and that at the end of time he will stand over the dust. Then, even after my skin has been destroyed, nevertheless, in my own flesh I will see God. I myself will see him. My own eyes will see him, and **not** as a **stranger**.*" And like **Job**, **all** those who have put their trust in Jesus, and who have made Him their dearest treasure will **rejoice** on the Last Day. At the present time we live by **faith**, so we can only **imagine** the **beauty**, and the **glory**, and the **majesty** of Christ's rule in heaven. But we are **excited** for that Day to come, when we will see our God without a **filter** - we'll see Him as He is - and best of all we will be **like** Him, perfect and holy, as we were **meant** to be from the beginning.

We can be absolutely **certain** that Jesus will return again on the Last Day, because He is the **faithful** witness. What He has revealed to us in His Word is **true**. And so we close this church year with the word - **Amen** - knowing that the **praise** which we gave to our LORD **today** is not the **end** - it's just the **beginning**, because

our praise will **continue on**, and we will glorify our God **forever** in heaven. This is **true. Amen.**

### **Prayers:**

Dear heavenly Father, we are truly living in **evil** times. In Your wisdom, You have decreed that this sin-filled world shall **not** stand forever, but that **judgment** and **destruction** will overtake us when we least expect it. Enable us to stand before you **unashamed** on that day. Nothing we could do could possibly **win** Your favor. Yet, **Your love** found a way. You sent Your only **Son** to atone for our sins. We rest our faith on **Your love**, asking that You would **forgive** us where we have transgressed, and **strengthen** us where our faith has wavered.

O Savior, Jesus Christ, by whose blood we are declared righteous, accept our humble **praise**. We live in a world that is utterly **sinful** and **hostile** toward God. It is filled with strong **temptations** for our sinful flesh. But our **comfort** and our **hope** is in Your glorious **return**, when You will bring to an **end** all things here, and receive us into the joys of our **eternal** home. We pray that You would come **quickly**, in accordance with Your Word and promise. But in the meantime, we ask You to bless us with heavenly **wisdom** as we faithfully and diligently study Your **Word**.

O Holy Spirit, create in us **humble** hearts, and lead us daily to **repent** of all our sins. Turn our thoughts continually **away** from worldly matters, and give us the strength to **flee** temptations and evil lusts. Lead our footsteps along the paths of **righteousness**, guided by Your **Word**. Fill our hearts with the love of **Christ**, so that we will also love **one another**. What great **joy** is ours as we look forward to the blessed day when our Savior and Lord will appear in glory to **raise** the dead, and **judge** the world. On that day, we will finally be **delivered** from this vale of tears. Amen.

### **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.**

**Hymn #217 - *“The Head that Once Was Crowned”***

**The head that once was crowned with thorns  
Is crowned with glory now;  
A royal diadem adorns  
The mighty victor’s brow.**

**The highest place that heav’n affords  
Is his, is his by right,  
The King of kings and Lord of lords  
And heav’n’s eternal light.**

**The joy of all who dwell above,  
The joy of all below  
To whom he manifests his love  
And grants his name to know.**

**To them the cross, with all its shame,  
With all its grace, is giv’n;  
Their name, an everlasting name;  
Their joy, the joy of heav’n.**

**They suffer with their Lord below;  
They reign with him above,  
Their profit and their joy, to know  
The myst’ry of his love.**

**The cross he bore is life and health,  
Though shame and death to him;  
His people’s hope, his people’s wealth,  
Their everlasting theme.**

**P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for  
my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face  
of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people**

Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**The Blessing:**

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

**C:** Amen.

**Hymn #341 - “Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

**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.**

**Crown him the Lord of love -  
Behold his hands and side,  
Rich wounds, yet visible above,  
In beauty glorified.  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his wond’ring eye  
At mysteries so bright.**

**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.**

**Crown him the Lord of heav’n,  
Enthroned in worlds above;**

**Crown him the King to whom is giv'n  
The wondrous name of Love.  
Crown him with many crowns  
As thrones before him fall;  
Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns  
For he is King of all.**