



*“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”
Revelation 1:8*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Christ the King Sunday – November 24, 2024**

420 Beaver St., PO Box 411

Mars, PA 16046-0411

www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830

email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshipping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.


PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS


GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.


*GATHERING SONG *Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)*




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 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Refrain

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Greetings to you in the name of the triune God, the one whose word always accomplishes:
The Shaper of Life, the Savior of Humanity, the Spirit of Renewal.

Amen.

Today, as we confess our sins, we recognize how easily we overlook the gifts God gives.
And we accept the sad truth that our limitations often create the conditions for sin. Let us
confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

we want a faith that feels like more than words,

but we lack your power to embody goodness.

We hear your call to serve others yet feel too worn out to make the food.

We hunger to taste justice but fear the burning spice of the meal.

We want our place at your table but resist sitting beside a stranger.

We have lost our appetites for mere thoughts and prayers,

but we fail to match our intentions to our actions.

Forgive us and restore us with the healing wholeness of your presence.

God knows we are imperfect.

But God did not invite us here today for what we have done
or how we have behaved. God loves you.

God always cared much more for you than for your shortcomings.

God forgives you all your sins.

Now repeat after me.

We accept God's forgiveness.

We accept God's forgiveness.

We take our place in God's purpose.

We take our place in God's purpose.

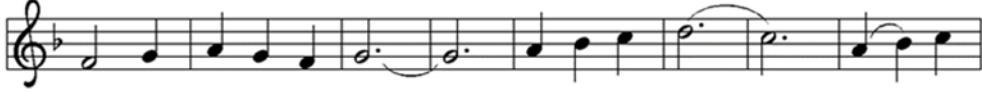
Amen.

*Canticle of Praise *Glory to God*


Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 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.

Refrain

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

3 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.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.
A - men, a - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

A reading from Daniel.

⁹ As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰ A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence.

A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

¹³ As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

¹⁴ To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 93

Read responsively – congregation reads bold printed verses

¹ The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.
The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

² **Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;
you are from everlasting.**

³ The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

⁴ **Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea,
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.**

⁵ Your testimonies are very sure,
and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.

SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8

A reading from Revelation.

^{4b} Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

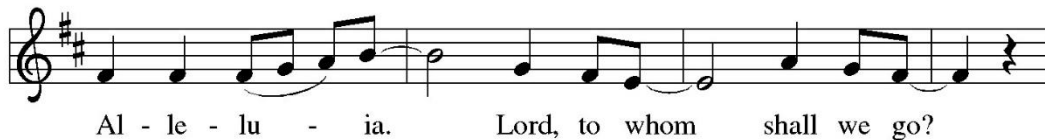
So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: John 18:33-37

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

³⁵ Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON *By Pastor Gene Hollingsworth*

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Hope of the World (ACS 1085)* (Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great com - pas - sion,
2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,
4 Hope of the world, who by your cross did save us
5 Hope of the world, Christ ris'n from death vic - to - rious,



speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.
bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:
show - ing to wan - d'ring souls the path of light:
from death and deep de - spair, from guilt and sin:
who by this tri - umph con - quered grief and pain:



Save us, your peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
still let your Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
walk close be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways
we ren - der back the love your mer - cy gave us;
we would be faith - ful to your gos - pel glo - rious;



who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
to heal earth's wounds and end all bit - ter strife.
lure us a - way from you to end - less night.
work through our lives to bring your pur - pose in.
you are our Lord and will for - ev - er reign!

*APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right
hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation. *A brief silence*

Revive our congregations, synods, and national church body to reflect the love, justice, and kinship of your kingdom. Raise up leaders who teach and serve your people. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nourish parched lands and bring relief to flooded places. Protect wildlife habitats and endangered species, that the chorus of creation's praise resounds with joy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Grant wisdom to the leaders who govern, legislate, and deliberate on our behalf. Advance your nonviolent reign of justice-seeking love through their work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated. Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration. Empower activists who advocate for change. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remind us of your enduring love in all seasons. Guide the planning efforts of worship leaders and volunteers who usher our congregation into a meaningful Advent. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In your eternal presence the saints sing of your majesty. Join our voices with theirs in praise to the one who loves us and frees us from sin. Be with Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts and grant them renewal. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for (*blue prayer cards are read*). We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God. Receive these and the prayers for which we do not yet have words into your holy keeping in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *O Christ the Same* (WOV 778)

Rise on 3rd verse

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Together we pray.

Holy Spirit, please bless these small gifts we give.

You set the table with plenty of love.

Prepare room in your home
for my neighbor and me.

Prepare a place in your vision
for my neighbor and me.

Prepare a seat at your table
for my neighbor and me.

Holy Spirit, you have blessed these gifts we give.

You set the table with plenty of love.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

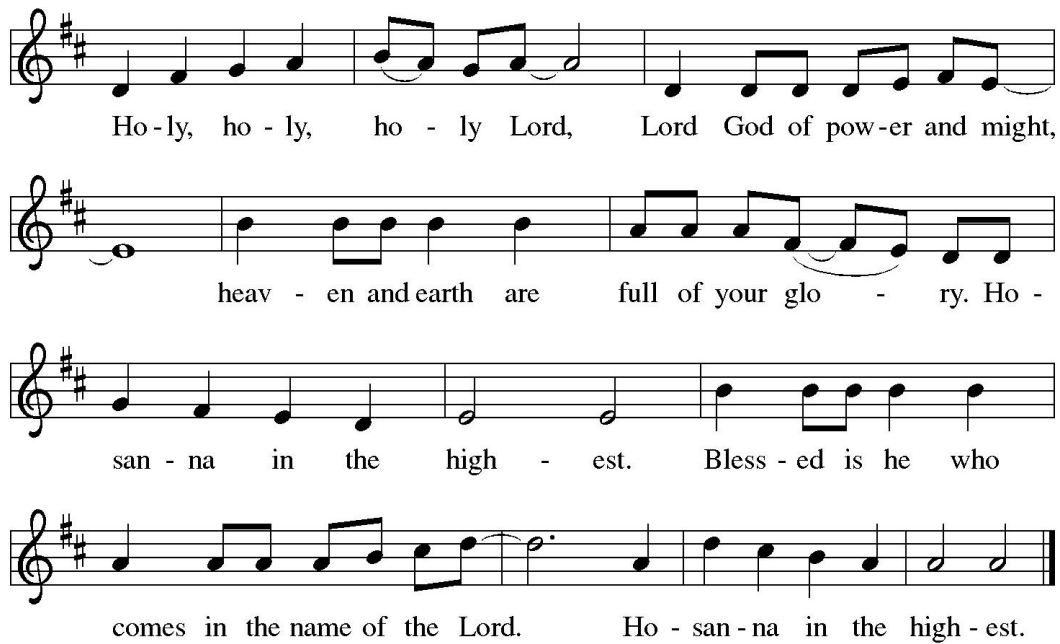
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
 san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

God, yours was the First Thought; before any human lived or knew your name, you whispered, and creation built itself around your words. Before your ancient people knew the depth of your love, you promised them goodness, and led them to freedom.

Your love grows unseen.

Before the world knew your face, your own child was born in a quiet stable.

Your love blooms in the dark.

Before we knew the depth of your love, your child died, crucified, and you forgave, and new life grew in the grave.

Your love echoes in the silence.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, And gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, Saying: take and eat; this is my body given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

This is the body of Jesus, the blood of Jesus.

To you, O God, holy three-in-one, one-in-three, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
**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**

Holy Spirit, you are here now in this food, where you embody forgiveness;
and in these people, whom you have leavened with grace.

People of God, God's love grew unseen, but now you know it;
God's love echoes in silence, but you have sung the song.

Now come taste the goodness of God's mercy and notice what God has done for you.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the Communion Song 'Lamb of God'. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.' The lyrics are placed below the corresponding musical notes. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over a bracketed group of three notes in several places.

COMMUNION HYMN *Beautiful Savior* (ELW 838)



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

COMMUNION HYMN *Give to Our God Immortal Praise* (ELW 848)



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
 3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of



truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
 dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
 kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er



God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace. **Amen.**

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Faithful God,
you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink
in the body and blood of your Son.
Now send us out to labor with you,
in service to the world you have made,
and among the people you have made your home,
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

God our Creator, who made the starlit sky, blesses you.
God our Redeemer, who arrives at just the right time, blesses you.
God our Sustainer, who sparks hope for the hopeless blesses you.
God the Three in One and One in Three blesses you.
God blesses you. Amen.

***SENDING SONG *All Glory, Laud and Honor* (ELW 344)**



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

***DISMISSAL**

People of God, you have already shared
the arrival of God's goodness.

You carry the blessing of God, God, the First Whisper,
Jesus, the Living Promise, Spirit, the Speaker of Hearts.

Now go into this world expecting God's justice
and nurturing God's peace. Christ is with you
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: David D

Acolyte: Anna K

Ushers: Larry W

Offering: Jules K & Abby C

Attendance last week: 83 + 4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

In fairy tales, kings live in a castle, usually located on a hill, surrounded by a moat for the utmost protection for the king and family. Modern political leaders often have more technologically advanced means to provide a similar level of safety against would-be attackers. Because of these preconceived notions of what kings are, hearers will need to be reminded that Jesus redefined the title “king.” The appointed psalm says, “The waters have lifted up, O Lord, . . . the waters have lifted up their pounding waves. Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, mightier is the Lord who dwells on high” (Ps. 93:3-4). While a king might have the ability to sail atop a roaring, chaotic sea, Christ the King is one who stills the waves (Mark 4:35-41).

In John’s gospel for today, Jesus says “For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth” (John 18:37). Perhaps the ‘this’ Jesus is referring to is a motioning with his hands to the cross, the most clear demonstration of God’s love for humanity and the truest definition of kingship. Jesus redefines what power is and what people think God’s power looks like to fight evil and suffering in the world. Jesus does not resist the way of the cross with force.

Rather than protecting himself from harm in any way, the vulnerable King Jesus dares to demonstrate God’s love for all people. Jesus does not run from pain, anguish, or suffering. Rather, the risen Jesus, “the ruler of the kings of the earth” (Rev. 1:5), rushes to the places of disaster and suffering in the world. Jesus goes where storms are ravaging and have ravaged lives and brings life and calm into the chaos.

Today’s Music

Lift High the Cross. Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956, Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

Hope of the World. Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt., Music: Trente quatre psaumes de David, Geneva, 1551; arr. Claude Goudimel, 1514–1572. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

O Christ the Same. Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926, Music: Irish tune, arr. John Barnard, b. 1948. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

Beautiful Savior. Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904, Music: Silesian folk tune, 19th cent. Public Domain.

Give to Our God Immortal Praise. Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793. Public Domain.

All Glory, Laud and Honor. Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt., Music: Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635. Public Domain.

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Next Week’s Readings: First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16 A righteous branch springing up from David

Psalms 25:1-10 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Strengthen the hearts of holiness for the coming of the Lord

Luke 21:25-36 Be alert for the coming of the Son of Man