Contemporary Worship

November 22, 2026
Christ the King
Last Sunday after Pentecost
Lectionary 34

Celebrating God's Abundance

This month we're celebrating God's lavish generosity!
Our sermon series, "There's a Wideness in God's Generosity," invites our faithful stewardship of the gifts of ourselves, our time, our skillful talents, and our resources as we seek to live in the abundance of God's realm here on earth. On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Today's Focus: As stewards of our resources, we experience deep contentment as we invest ourselves in caring for the generations following us.

GATHERING MUSIC *King of Heaven* – Baloche/Ingram

Jesus, let Your kingdom come here; let Your will be done here in us;
Jesus, there is no one greater; You alone are Savior; show the world Your love.

King of heaven, come down; King of heaven, come now;
Let Your glory reign, shining like the day, King of heaven, come.
King of heaven, rise up; who can stand against us;
You are strong to save, in Your mighty name King of heaven, come.

We are children of Your mercy, rescued for Your glory;
We cry Jesus, set our hearts towards You, that every eye would see You lifted high.

WELCOME

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!
Assembly: And also with you.

OPENING SONG * *Over All the Earth*

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

Verse 1: Over all the earth, you reign on high,
Every mountain stream, every sunset sky.
But my one request, Lord, my only aim,
Is that You'd reign in me again.

Chorus: Lord, reign in me, reign in Your pow'r;
Over all my dreams, in my darkest hour.
You are the Lord of all I am,
So won't You reign in me again.

Verse 2: Over every thought, over every word,
May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord;
'Cause You mean more to me than any earthly thing.
So won't You reign in me again…*chorus*

"Lord, Reign In Me" (Over All The Earth) words and music by Brenton Brown
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HOLY GOSPEL* Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "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. 32 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, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 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, 36 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.' 37 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? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the
eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 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.’
44 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?’ 45 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.’ 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.
Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG & PRAYERS * *Lord, Let Your Kingdom Come*

The refrain is sung once by the Praise Team and then by the Assembly.

Lord, let your kingdom come. Your will be done.
Lord, let your kingdom come. Alleluia.

Words: UMH Hymnal & Matthew 6:10
Music: Bonnie Johansen-Werner
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The refrain is sung by all as a response to each prayer petition.

Leader: Gracious God, bless your church
and strengthen us to share the love of Christ through generous hearts,
faithful service, and lives of gratitude…*Refrain*

Leader: God of creation, we thank you for the abundance of the earth.
Teach us to be faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to us,
sharing our resources so that all may have enough…*Refrain*

Leader: God of compassion, bring peace to troubled nations, healing to the sick,
comfort to those who grieve, and hope to those who struggle.
Remember especially those who are hungry, lonely,
or in need as we approach Thanksgiving…*Refrain*

Leader: Generous God, receive our prayers and fill us with grateful hearts.
Help us celebrate your blessings by welcoming others, sharing what we have,
and reflecting the love of Christ our King. In his holy name we pray…*Refrain*

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!
Assembly: And also with you!

The assembly greets each other with "peace be with you…and also with you."

You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.
If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.

OFFERING

Let Your Kingdom Come – Bob Kauflin

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.
Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.

Your glorious cause, O God, engages our hearts.
May Jesus Christ be known wherever we are.
We ask not for ourselves, but for Your renown.
The cross has saved us so we pray, "Your kingdom come."

Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done,
So that everyone might know Your Name.
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth,
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done.
Let Your kingdom come.

Give us Your strength, O God, and courage to speak.
Perform Your wondrous deeds through those who are weak.
Lord, use us as You want, whatever the test.
By grace we'll preach Your gospel till our dying breath.

CONFESSION *

Leader: We pause now to take a moment to be honest with God and with ourselves
about the things we've done and things we've failed to do
that do not honor God and the blessings and resources we have been given.
Let us open our hearts and ask for God's forgiveness.

Silence for reflection is kept.

Leader: Gracious God,
Assembly: thank you for all the blessings and resources you have given to us.
Sometimes we forget how much we have been given.
We focus on what we want instead of seeing the needs around us.
We hold on tightly to our time, our money, and our resources
instead of sharing them freely.
We let worry and selfishness get in the way of generosity and kindness.
Forgive us when we fall short.
Open our hearts, change our priorities,
and help us live with grateful and generous spirits.
Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.
We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.
You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.
Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available
in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.
You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.
"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you
Communion Receiver: Amen.

Give Thanks

Chorus: Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

Verse: And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

"Give Thanks" words and music by Henry Smith
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious and generous God,
we give you thanks for nourishing us with the body and blood of Christ.
Strengthened by this holy meal,
send us forth to live as faithful stewards of your gifts.
May we use our resources wisely, share generously with those in need,
and serve others with the humility and love of Christ our King.
Let our lives reflect the abundance of your grace and the hope of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: Go forth with grateful hearts, giving thanks for God's abundant blessings.
May Christ our King guide you to share generously, serve joyfully,
and care faithfully for all that God has entrusted to you.
May your lives be a daily expression of thanksgiving,
doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God.
May the Lord bless you and keep you, now and always.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING SONG * *Soon and Very Soon*

Verse 1: Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Verse 2: No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Verse 3: No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Verse 4: Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

"Soon And Very Soon" words and music by Andraé Crouch
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DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
Give thanks and share God's blessings.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Praise Team

FLOWER DEDICATION:

The altar flowers are given in memory of her parents and other loved ones by Carolyn Martin.

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