

Last Sunday of the Church Year- November 23, 2025 Traditional

They Shall Be Mine

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!

Opening Hymn: *#905 Come, Thou Almighty King*

- 1 Come, Thou almighty King,
 Help us Thy name to sing;
 Help us to praise;
 Father all-glorious,
 O'er all victorious,
 Come and reign over us,
 Ancient of Days.
- 2 Come, Thou incarnate Word,
 Gird on Thy mighty sword;
 Our prayer attend.
 Come and Thy people bless,
 And give Thy Word success,
 And let Thy righteousness
 On us descend.
- 3 Come, holy Comforter,
 Thy sacred witness bear
 In this glad hour!
 Thou, who almighty art,
 Now rule in ev'ry heart,
 And ne'er from us depart,
 Spirit of pow'r.
- △ 4 To Thee, great One in Three,
 Eternal praises be
 Hence evermore!
 Thy sov'reign majesty
 May we in glory see,

And to eternity
Love and adore.

Text: English, before 1760, alt.
Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

Colossians 1:13–14

- P** The Lord has delivered us from the domain of darkness
C and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- P** Almighty God and King,
C we confess that we have broken trust with You. We have doubted Your goodness, neglected Your ways, and sought to satisfy our sinful nature. We do not think, speak, or act like Your treasured possession. We bring before You our faults and failures, honestly and humbly recognizing that we deserve to be cast out of Your kingdom. Have mercy, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Spare us from Your wrath, deliver us from death and darkness, and cleanse us from sin, that we serve You in righteousness, innocence, and blessedness now and always. Amen.
- P** On His cross, Jesus Christ, your Savior, was crowned with shame and given unto death for You. His blood pays the price Your sins deserve. Now crowned with glory, the risen and reigning Christ lives to declare sins forgiven. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Introit for Last Sunday

Psalms 134; antiphon: Psalm 33:8

- C** Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!
- P** Come, bless the LORD, all you servants | of the LORD,*
who stand by night in the house | of the LORD!
Lift up your hands to the | holy place*
and | bless the LORD!
May the LORD bless you from | Zion,*
He who made | heaven and earth!
- C** 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.

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!

Text: ESV®

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Prayer of the Day

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.

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:13–18

¹³“Your words have been hard against Me, says the LORD. But you say, ‘How have we spoken against You?’ ¹⁴You 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?’ ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.”

¹⁶Then 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. ¹⁷“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. ¹⁸Then 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.

Epistle

Colossians 1:13–20

¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and 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.

Holy Gospel

Luke 23:27–43

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁷And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for Him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For 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!’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Him. ³³And 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. ³⁴And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And 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!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over Him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²And he said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” ⁴³And 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.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

“Joyful Noise”

Zion K-8th Students

By Matt Maher

Children's Message

#450 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

sts. 1–4

- 1 O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

- 2 How pale Thou art with anguish,
 With sore abuse and scorn!
How doth Thy face now languish
 That once was bright as morn!
Grim death, with cruel rigor,
 Hath robbed Thee of Thy life;
Thus Thou hast lost Thy vigor,
 Thy strength, in this sad strife.
- 3 What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
 Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression,
 But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
 And grant to me Thy grace.
- 4 My Shepherd, now receive me;
 My Guardian, own me Thine.
Great blessings Thou didst give me,
 O Source of gifts divine.
Thy lips have often fed me
 With words of truth and love;
Thy Spirit oft hath led me
 To heav'nly joys above.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; German version, Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
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Sermon

Rev. Greg Prauner

Creed

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

#956 Create in Me

- 1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12
Text: Public domain

Offering

“Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart”

Zion Students handbells

Prayers of the Church

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly worthy, proper, and beneficial that we would give thanks to You in every time and place, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom all things were created, and to whom all powers and dominion owe honor and obedience. Yet, it was Christ who humbled Himself, suffered in our place, and by the

blood of His cross, made peace between God and humanity. He rose as the firstborn from the dead and was crowned with eternal glory. We eagerly anticipate the consummation of His redeeming work, as He gathers believers of every tribe and tongue, together with angels and archangels, to bless and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Luke 23:43

P Blessed are You, Lord God, heavenly King, for the grace You have shown to all creation in sending a Savior, Your Son, Jesus Christ. To the condemned, He speaks: "Today you will be with Me in Paradise," and we truly taste His Word fulfilled among us as He gathers us around His life-giving body and blood. Help us to partake of this heavenly feast in sincerity and truth, looking forward to the royal banquet that awaits as the faithful are gathered by Christ, the Lamb, in the midst of the throne, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

#525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

- 1 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.
- 2 Crown Him the virgin’s Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose,
Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.
- 3 Crown Him the Lord of love.
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky

Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.

- 4 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.
- 5 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.

Text (sts. 1-3, 5): Matthew Bridges, 1800-94, alt.; (st. 4): Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903
Text: Public domain

#804 O Worship the King

- 1 O worship the King,
all-glorious above.
O gratefully sing
His pow'r and His love;
Our shield and defender,
the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor
and girded with praise.
- 2 O tell of His might,
O 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.
- 3 This earth, with its store
of wonders untold,

Almighty, Thy pow'r
hath founded of old,
Established it fast
by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast,
like a mantle, the sea.

- 4 Thy 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.

- 5 Frail children of dust
and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust,
nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender,
how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender,
redeemer, and friend!

- 6 O measureless Might,
ineffable Love,
While angels delight
to hymn Thee above,
Thy humbler creation,
though feeble their lays,
With true adoration
shall sing to Thy praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.
Text: Public domain

#611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.
- 3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.
- 4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.
- 5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.
Text: Public domain

Post- Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ, we praise You for remembering us in Your kingdom, setting a place for us at Your Table, and bringing us into a life that lasts forever. As those forgiven by Your grace and sealed as Your treasured possession, bless us with firm faith and a holy purpose, that on this side of paradise we would dedicate ourselves to announcing Your righteous rule as witnesses of Your glory and servants of Your kingdom, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P To God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be all honor and glory in His holy church, forever and ever.

C Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ shall come again!

P Lift up your heads and open your eyes,

C for He is coming!

P Who is coming?

C The King of glory!

P Who is this King of glory?

C The Lord of hosts; He is the King of glory!

P Blessings on Him who comes as King,

C who comes in the name of the Lord!

P The almighty and merciful God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you, and lead you into everlasting life.

C Amen, amen, and amen!

Recessional Hymn: #837 *Lift High the Cross*

sts. ref-6

ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. Refrain

3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. Refrain

4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. Refrain

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.
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