GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

918 Garfield Avenue, Albert Lea, Minnesota
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Christ the King Sunday **November 22, 2026**

**Denotes to stand if able.*

Bells of Praise
Prelude: Pendaneni (Love One Another) ..... **Cathy Moklebust**

Welcome and Announcements

***Gathering Hymn:** Crown Him with Many Crowns..... **ELW 855**

*Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
A: Amen.
L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Holy God,
A: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.
L: Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven.
Blessed are you.
A: Amen.

*Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
A: And also with you

*Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray. O God of power and might,
A: Your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

11 For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As
shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep.
I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and
thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and
bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the
watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and
the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing
land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd
of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will
bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and
the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

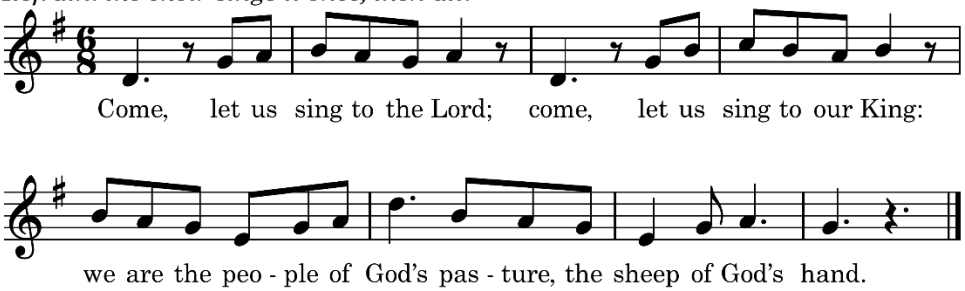
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the
lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals
with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no
longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall
feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David shall
be prince among them; I the Lord have spoken.

L: The word of the Lord
A: Thanks be to God

Psalm 95:1-7a

Refrain: the choir sings it once, then all.



Verses: the choir. All sing the refrain after each verse.

1 Shout to the Rock who has saved us, shout to our God and rejoice;
come before God with thanksgiving, raising loud songs to the Lord.

2 Great is the Lord, and none greater, King far above every god,
holding the depths and the mountains, shaping the sea and the land.

3 Come, let us bow down in worship, come, let us kneel and adore;
here is the Lord, who has made us; this is the Lord, our own God.

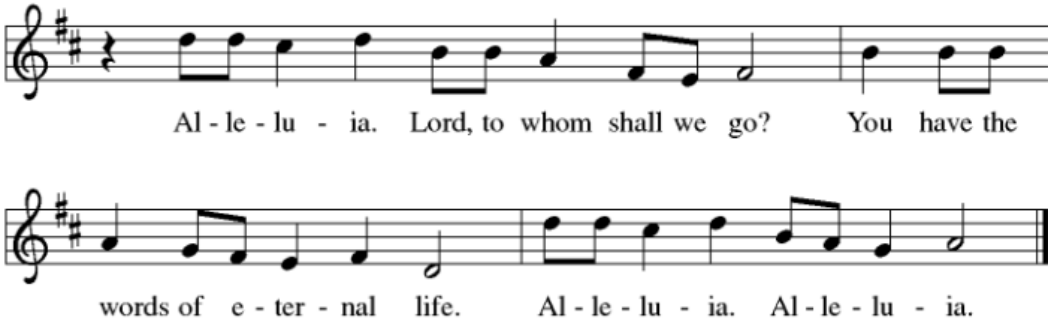
Psalm 95:1–7a, paraphrased. © 2026 Aaron Bartz. All rights reserved.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this
reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God
of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as
you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what
is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the
saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to
the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from
the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority
and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the
age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things
for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

L: The word of the Lord
A: Thanks be to God

***Gospel Acclamation**



L: The Gospel according to Matthew.
A: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

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.”

L: The gospel of the Lord!
A: Praise to you, O Christ!

Children’s Message: Deacon Jessie Camp

Sermon: Pastor Shane Koepke

***Hymn of the Day:** O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us ..... **ELW 431**

Food Blessing

L: Almighty God, you are the giver of all good things, the source of all blessings. Because of your perfect love, you have commanded us, through Christ your son, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, and visit those in prison.
A: Give us grateful hearts, O God.
L: Let us always remember to be thankful to you, and to those who provide for others in times of need. May we give freely, generously, and joyfully for the glory of your name, the good of our neighbor and our own growth in your love.
A: Give us grateful hearts, O God.
L: Bless this food. Bless those in New Richland, as they recover from disaster. Bless the food shelf and all who have dedicated their time to serving those affected by flooding. Bless those who receive this food. May they receive it with thankful hearts. By your Spirit nourish our love for one another and for our neighbor in need.
A: Give us grateful hearts, O God.
L: We thank you, Lord, for the gifts of shared abundance and joy. Thank you for the gift of sharing life in community. Make us your beloved community in the world, at work for the sake of your justice, mercy, and love. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
A: Amen.

*Apostles Creed

A: 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 life everlasting. Amen

***Prayers of Intercession**

Each petition ends with the words:

L: God, in your mercy,

A: hear our prayer.

***Sharing Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

Offering

***Offertory Song:** As Saints of Old (verse 1).....**ELW 695**

As saints of old their firstfruits brought
of orchard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good,
the source of bounteous yield;
so we today firstfruits would bring,
the wealth of this good land,
of farm and market, shop and home,
of mind and heart and hand.

***Offering Prayer**

L: Let us pray. Eternal God,

A: Our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***Holy Communion**

***The Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Words of Institution**

***Reflection at the Table**

L: The Empire wanted them frightened, divided, and alone.

A: Christ wanted them together at the table.

L: How many fish had they caught? How many weddings had they attended? How many loaves had they multiplied?

A: How many meals had they shared, just like this one?

L: At this table, Christ continues to gather us.
When we come to this meal, we remember. More than that, we are re-membered – joined again to Christ and to one another as the Body of Christ.

A: Every time we practice community and seek connection, we re-member the body of Christ.

L: The promise given in bread and wine is proximate, as near as my blood to yours. And this promise is universal, for everyone and without condition.

A: Forgiveness is uniquely for you and for everyone else, too.

L: It's just a morsel of bread and a sip of wine. Yet in these simple gifts, Christ is fully present, gathering us in and giving us what we need to live.

A: Christ wants us together at the table.

L: Come to remember and be re-membered.

A: Many voices raised to One God, the Living Voice of Creation.

From Living Voice of Creation. Nourishing Vocation Project, Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

***Lord's Prayer**

A: 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.

Distribution

Hymns: O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts ..... **ELW 658**
Beautiful Savior ..... **ELW 838**

***Prayer after Communion**

L: Let us pray. Holy God,

A: we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.

Choir Benediction: The Shepherd Go Before You

The Shepherd go before you, the King be at your side; the God of peace surround you wherever you abide; and in the least, the lowly, the stranger at your door; may you behold the Savior and serve him ever more. The Shepherd go before you, the King be at your side; God of peace surround you wherever you abide. Amen.

***Sending Hymn:** Jesus Shall Reign ..... **ELW 434**

***Sending**

L: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

THANK YOU for joining in worship at Grace Lutheran!
Welcome to all members and visitors! May God bless this time of worship with joy and peace. If you're seeking a church home, we invite you to join the Grace family—please speak with the pastor or deacon for more information.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

WORSHIP LEADERS: Pastor Shane Koepke and Deacon Jessie Camp
MUSIC: Aaron Bartz
SCRIPTURE READER: Cleo Moller
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Jim & LaJean Westeng
COMMUNION BREAD & WINE: Given in memory of Mary Lou Jacobson by the Jacobson family