

Prairieland Parish

*As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present.
May we together experience the presence of God*

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We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord



Prelude

Welcome

Announcements

This week marks the end of the Christian year. Next Sunday will be the first Sunday of Advent, and it will begin another journey with the church through the life and witness of Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior.

So, today we end with a statement of allegiance to the one who reigns over us. Sometimes called Christ the King Sunday or Reign of Christ Sunday. Either way, we declare our ultimate allegiance not to a nation, not to an ideal or dream, but to a person.

Our faith in its most basic form is about a relationship with this person Jesus, whom we call Christ, or the Messiah. He is the one who reigns over us, the one in whom we find our identity and our being.

When we surrender to Christ, we will find ourselves more completely. When we bow to this Christ, we stand stronger and taller than at any other time, with any other allegiance.

This week should be a joyous celebration in the life of the church, a time of thanksgiving and of preparation for what is to come.

Let us begin this time of celebration by uniting in our call to worship Him today.

CALL TO WORSHIP

It is done.

God has always been in charge—

yesterday and today.

Even when things seem out of control,

God's reign is on its way.

Let us prepare the way for God.

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross, that all people might come within the reach of your saving embrace.

Clothe us in your Spirit, that we, stretching out our hands in loving service for others, may bring those who do not know you to an awareness and love of you;

who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, One God forever! Amen!

HYMN OF PRAISE

We Hear God's Word

Gospel Reading..... Luke 23:33-43

New Revised Standard Version

3 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus[a] there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]][b] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35 And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah[c] of God, his chosen one!" 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine 37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" 38 There was also an inscription over him,[d] "This is the King of the Jews."

39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding[e] him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah?[f] Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in[g] your kingdom." 43 He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FAITH HYMN

"Message"

Joys/Concerns

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Blessed are you, Lord God, for you have visited and redeemed your people. Your Savior has conquered death and is exalted above every power in heaven and earth where he reigns. We sing our thanksgiving and offer our praise to your majestic name.

By the power of your Holy Spirit, knit together once more your Church. Grant that your Church might honor you with a united purpose of proclaiming grace and freedom to all the world. Make us prophets of the Most High.

In this day we exalt Christ as our King, we remember the many who are lifted up in other ways.

We name those about whom we are most concerned now in voice and in our hearts. Look with mercy on those who are nailed to crosses of pain and suffering, from those forces which destroy the body, affect the mind and drain the spirit.

Give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. Remember all these, and us, in your realm of light we pray using the words that Jesus taught us. Our Father...

Offertory

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

Almighty, Creator God, we humbly bring our gifts to you this day. On Calvary's cross, your son redefined for the world what it meant to rule, what it meant to be a king. In his life, teaching and interacting with people, Jesus redefined what it means to give in a way that pleases God. May we in this season live and give in a way that reflects the reign over us and the one who lives within us. In the exalted name of Christ, we pray. Amen. (Luke 23:33-43)

Departing Hymn

Benediction

Though the days increase in their darkness, the Lord of light and love reigns supreme. May the power of God's love be in your hearts and reflected in your lives now and always. Go in peace and may God's peace be with you. AMEN.

***POSTLUDE**