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Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday of the Christian Church Year and it is relatively new to the church calendar. It was created by Pope Pius XI in 1925 when Europe was still recovering from World War I. People were putting more faith in human saviors than in God. Pius called for an annual Sunday to assert the "Kingship of our Savior". Since then, Protestant churches have also adopted this day to proclaim that no earthly ruler is lord. In today's readings, we find Jesus reigning from the cross with mercy for all.

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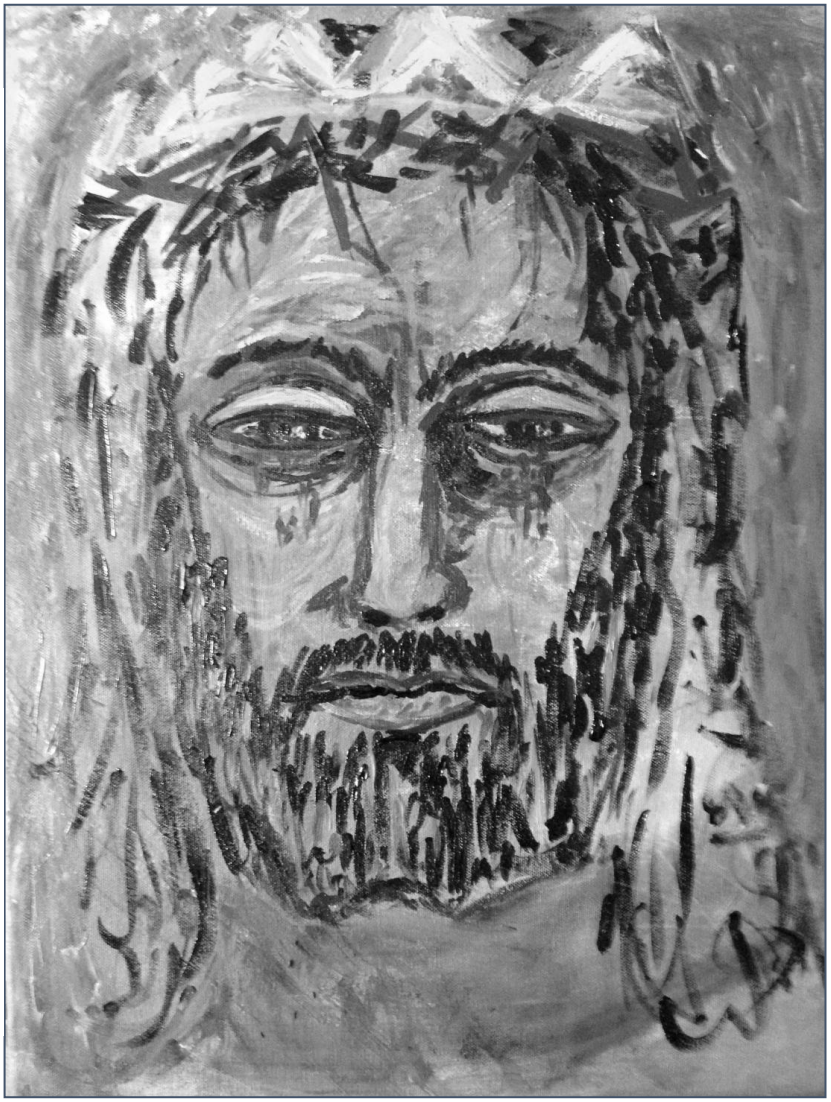


St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502
www.the-welcome-place.org

Christ the King Sunday + November 23, 2025

"We Praise You, O God"

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader
Bold text is spoken by the Congregation

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRELUDE ***"We Praise You, O God"***
arr. Raney

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** ***"We Praise You, O God"

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

Even though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited.

Christ emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself.

He became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.

At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *(Philippians 2:3-11)*

We gather under the lordship and rule of Almighty God who holds the power to heal and assures us forgiveness.

Silence for personal reflection

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Uphold us by your Holy Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God has promised salvation to all who call upon the name of the Lord. We have a new unity with God, the Lord and ruler of our lives.

Amen

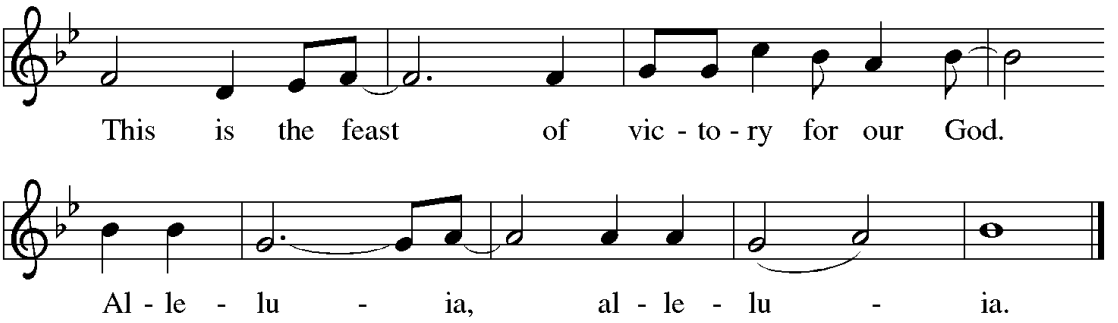
*GREETING

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

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
Refrain
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



*Prayer of the Day

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a dwelling for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

The Church Listens

First Reading — Jeremiah 23:1–6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD.
2 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who
shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away,
and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the
LORD. 3 Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have
driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.
4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any
longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.
5 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous
Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and
righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety.
And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111 – *responsively*

1 Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
2 Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.
3 Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.
4 He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.
5 He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
6 He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.
7 The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.
8 They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
9 He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.
10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

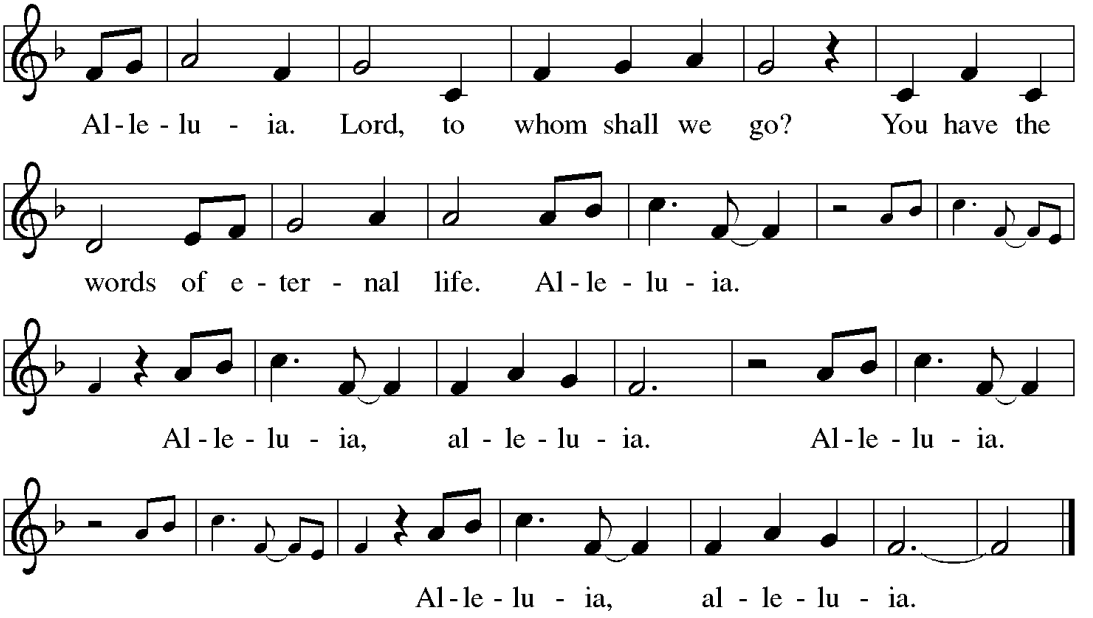
SECOND READING — Colossians 1:11–20

11 May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and
may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully 12 giving thanks to
the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He
has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his
beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16 for in him all things in
heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or
dominions or rulers or powers — all things have been created through him and for him.
17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 He is the head of the
body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to
have first place in everything. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or
in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 23rd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

33When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with
the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them;
for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35And
the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let
him save himself if he is the Messiah 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 there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not
the Messiah? 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 have
been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man
has done nothing wrong." 42Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your
kingdom." 43He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

Children's Message *Susan Short*

Message *"Today"*

THE CHURCH RESPONDS

HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

(Verse 2 – Women and High Voices only; Verse 4 – Men and Low Voices only)

*PROFESSION OF FAITH – *Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy…
Hear our prayer.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.
(We greet one another with the words "Peace be with you")

OFFERING OF GIFTS ***"Hark, Ten Thousand Harps and Voices"***

Chancel Choir *Howard Helvey*

Hark, ten thousand harps and voices sound the note of praise above!
Jesus reigns, and heaven rejoices, Jesus reigns, the God of love;
see, he sits on Yonder throne; Jesus rules the world alone.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!

Come, ye Saints, unite your praises with the angels round his throne;
soon, we hope, our God will raise us to the place where He is gone.
Meat it is that we should sing, "Glory, Glory, to our King!"
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!

King of Glory Reign Forever! Thine an everlasting crown
Nothing from thy love shall sever those whom thou hast made thine own:
happy objects of thy grace, destined to behold thy face.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!

OFFERTORY** ***"Oh, What Shall I Render"

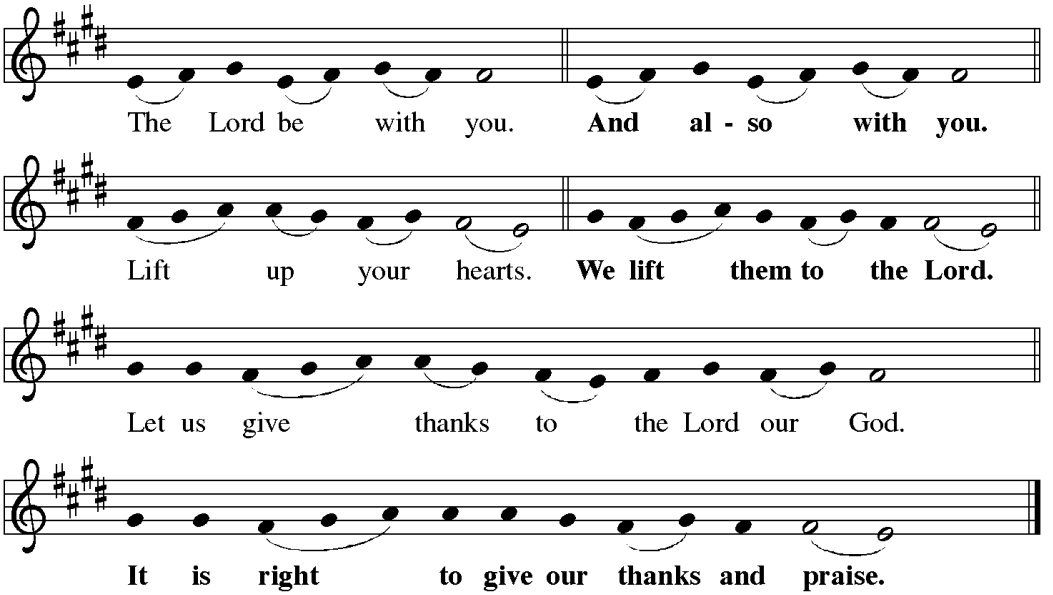
*Offering Prayer

Merciful Father, Holy God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. As we bring these offerings before you, nourish us with your truth and plant your wisdom deep within us. May what we give and how we live reflect the lessons of your Word—guiding us to love mercy, seek justice, and walk humbly with you; through Jesus Christ, the Living Word.

Amen.

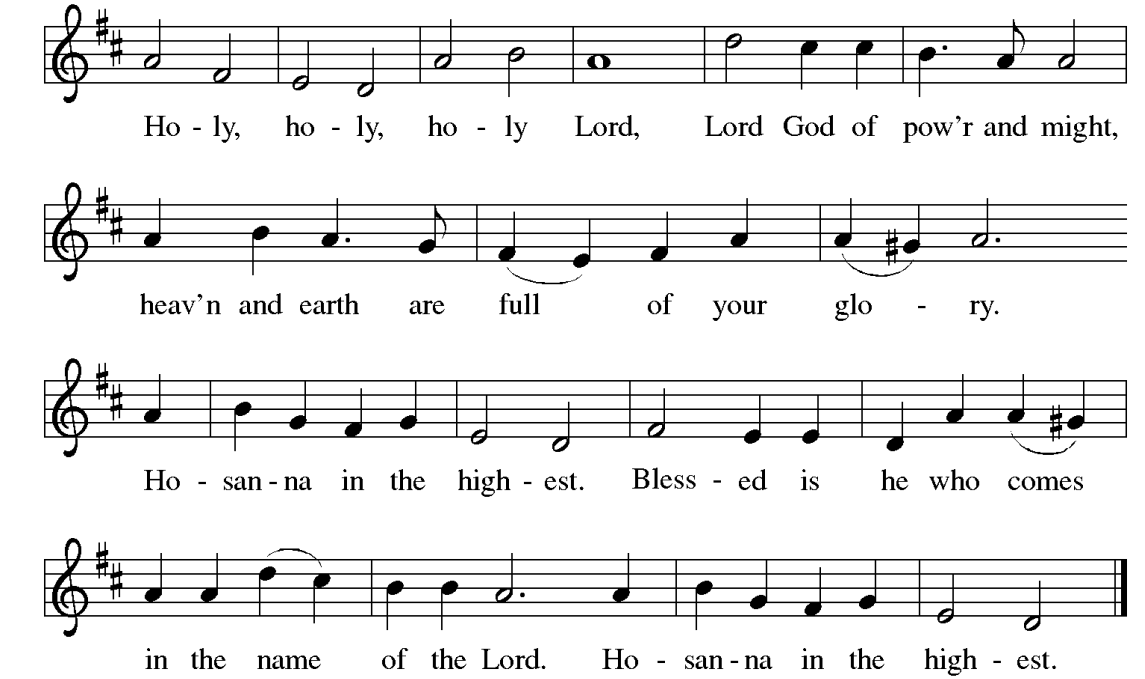
The Church Shares The Meal

* Thanksgiving



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:

*SANCTUS *(Latin: Holy)*



*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: we adore you our Sovereign Lord, our Wisdom, and our Judge. We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and poured out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

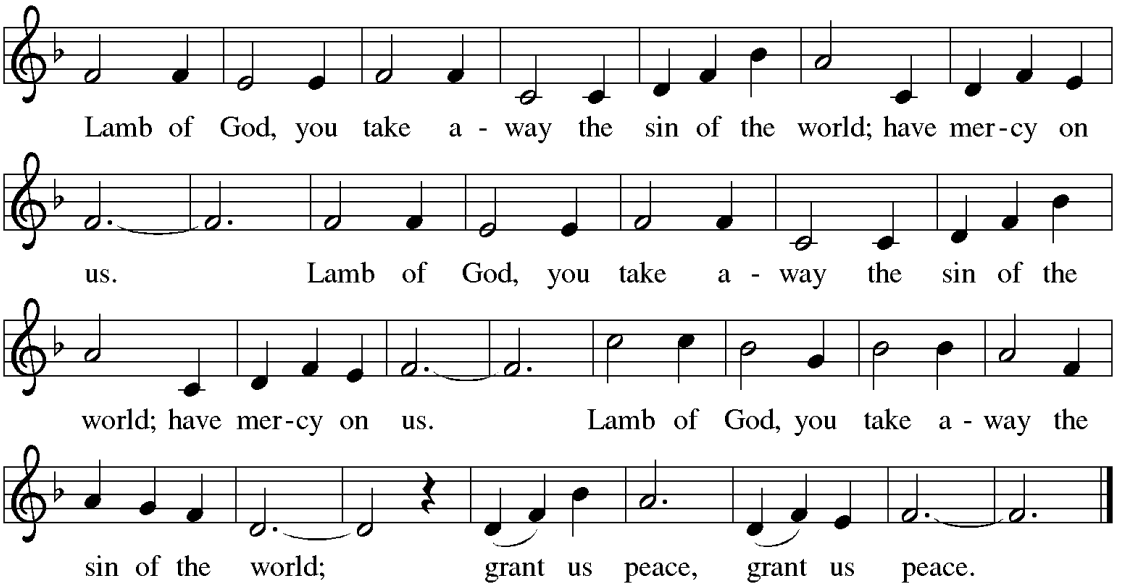
Amen

* THE 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.

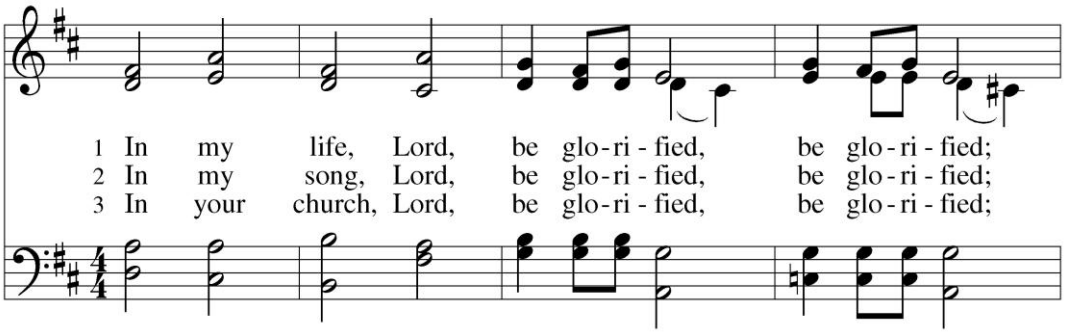
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

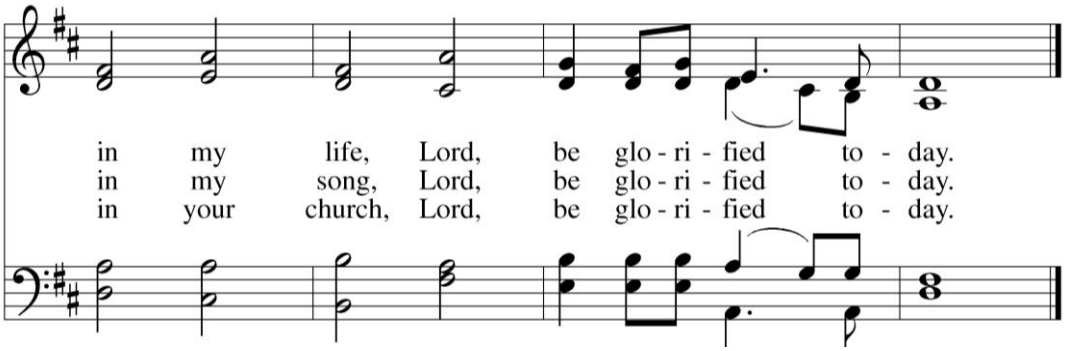
"Lamb of God" *– John 1:29*



"Beautiful Savior" **LBW 518** (GREEN HYMNAL)

"Lord, Be Glorified"





THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

*BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

*PRAYER

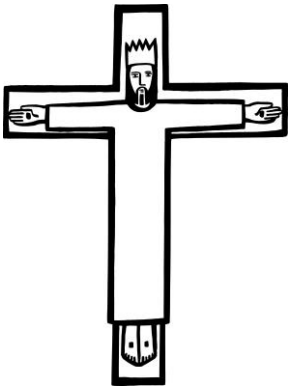
God of abundance, with this bread and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, the Lord and ruler of our lives.

Amen

* BENEDICTION

God bless us with courage, with peace, and with love,
that we may freely live for God and freely give for others.
The blessing of Almighty God; Father, Son + and Holy Spirit be with us now and always.

Amen



*CLOSING SONG *"Soon and Very Soon"*

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

+*+*+*+*+*+

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WORSHIP MATTERS

What do the different colors in the church mean? Throughout the "church year" different colors are displayed in the church. Each color has a specific meaning. Green is the color of growth; it is used during the Sundays of Epiphany and the Sundays after Pentecost when the scripture readings focus on our growth in faith. Purple was an expensive dye to obtain and the color of royalty. Jesus wore a purple garment when he was ridiculed and beaten before being crucified. Purple is the color of Lent, signifying repentance. White is the color of purity and is used for Christmas, Easter and other church festivals where Jesus is revealed as the Son of God. Gold is another appropriate color used for the celebration of Easter. Red is the color of fire and the Holy Spirit. It is used for Pentecost, ordinations into the ministry, Reformation and commemoration of martyrs. Blue is a color representing hope in Advent, the season of preparation and waiting before Christmas.

Today the color is white celebrating the rule of Christ the King. Next Sunday we begin a new church year with the color of blue and the season of Advent.

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	-Kayla Benecke
Lector	-Ross Miller
Organist/Pianist	-Matthew Wachtman
Percussion	-Mike Short
Usher Team Leader	-Jim & Janet Wyse
Sound System	-Cameron Thompson
Altar Guild	-Joan Meyer & Jessica Short
Offering Counters	-Jan Delaney & Jo Ann Liechty

The St. Martin's Webstore is open! If you would like to order some apparel you can go to https://stmartinsarchbold.itemorder.com, click the link in your Friday email, or scan the QR code provided.

We are looking for people who would like to **provide the Wednesday Night meals**. Erinn Thompson is organizing this, so you can contact her if you would like to help. You can also scan the QR code provided or click the link in your Friday email to sign up!

The Nominating Team is requesting members of Congregation to prayerfully consider serving in any of the upcoming vacancies on Church Council listed below. Any member may submit a name for consideration, but please keep in mind that candidates must be voting members, attend worship and participate in Holy Communion regularly, and be an active participant in at least one ministry team. The following vacancies are available for the 2026-2028 term:

Council President
Council Secretary
Member-at-Large

Please contact Cameron Thompson or a member of the Nominating Team (Janet Wyse or Jan Delaney) no later than December 1st, 2025, with your considerations. Thank you!

If you are out and about and see candy on sale, please consider donating to our **Parade of Lights** Float. There will be a place to leave donated candy in the entryway.

End of Year Giving: If you would like your end of year giving to go toward 2025, please have it in to Jo Ann Liechty by December 20th.

There will be a Parent's Night Out Event on December 13th! Drop your kids at the Outback from 6-8:30pm and get any last-minute Christmas Shopping or wrapping done! It will be a night of games, friends, & faith-filled activities for the kids. Sign up through Jake or the QR code listed in the Friday email or on our website!

NEW MINISTRY CONVERSATION! Jake and Pastor Steve have been having conversations with the Archbold Elementary Principal since the end of last school year. If anyone is interested in being part of developing and implementing an after-school program to provide possible tutoring assistance for students, please reach out to Jake or Steve.

The Church Directory has been up and running for a year and a half now! We are noticing it as a helpful tool for our congregation as it gets a lot of traffic week to week. We'd like to remind you that you can go online and make any changes for you and your family or contact the church office to do it for you. Any changes of address, please send to the church office so the directory and database can be updated. At the beginning of every year, the church office will update anything that we notice needs refreshed. Thank you all for your help and participation making the directory a helpful tool for our congregation.

Christmas Cheer Tree: Please support Fulton County Christmas Cheer by taking tags from the tree in the Narthex and purchasing the items on the tags. Your donations help to put food on the table of local families & gifts into the hands of children on Christmas morning. Please bring the items back to church by 10am on 12/7/25. If you're not able to pick up tags, you can donate monetarily via fultoncountychristmascheer.org. Together we can do great things!

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP with Zion Mennonite, Wednesday, November 26 at 7pm at Zion. The choirs will provide music, and Pastor Steve will preach.

OUR MISSION TEAM IS READY!

We are excited to share that a team of **13 volunteers from St. Martin** will be traveling to **Puerto Rico from February 22–March 1** to help repair a home whose roof was destroyed by hurricanes. This project is coordinated through **Techos Pa' Mi Gente** ("Roofs for My People"), a local organization dedicated to restoring safe housing for families in need.

With our team assembled, we are now moving into the planning phase—booking **airfare, housing, and van rentals**. We even have photos of the home we'll be repairing.

How You Can Help

Your support makes this mission possible. Would you consider giving a gift toward the trip?

- **$100** – Groceries for the team
- **$500** – Housing for one volunteer for the week
- **$1,000** – An airfare ticket
- **$700** – Van rental

Gifts of any size are deeply appreciated. Please note *"mission trip"* on your donation so it can be directed appropriately.

Upcoming Fundraisers

The team will host a **brunch on December 14**, following the children's Christmas program. We hope you'll stay, enjoy a meal, and support our mission efforts. We also plan to host a **coffee hour** early in the new year—more details to come!

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and generosity as we prepare to serve our neighbors in Puerto Rico.

Darren Sonnenberg
Evangelism/Outreach Network

This Week at St. Martin's

TODAY – November 23
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20am
Adult Sunday School, 10:30am
High School Youth, 10:30am

Monday – November 24
Adult Catechism Zoom, 7pm
Chosen Zoom, 8pm

Tuesday – November 25
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Sewing, 9am
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

Wednesday – November 26
Bulletin Deadline, 9am
WPW Meal, 5:15pm
Worship, 6pm
Thanksgiving Eve Service @ Zion, 7pm

Thursday – November 27-Thanksgiving Day

Friday-November 28
Parade of Lights Float, 5:30pm

Next Sunday – November 30
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20am
Adult Sunday School, 10:30am
High School Youth, 10:30am

St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street Archbold OH 43502
Phone Number: 419-445-4656
Web Site: www.the-welcome-place.org
Email: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org

Office Hours:

Pastor Steve Basselman
steveb@the-welcome-place.org
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. morning
Tues, Wed, Thurs, afternoon
Cell Phone: 419-572-6091

Matthew Wachtman, Music & Worship
matthew@the-welcome-place.org
Tues, All Day
Wed. PM
Thurs, & Fri, AM

Jake Keil, **Youth**
jakek@the-welcome-place.org
Sun, Tues, Thurs. morning
Mon, Tues, Wed. afternoon & Sunday PM

Whitney Wyse, Office Manager
stmartin@the-welcome-place.org
Tues. 8:30-12:00 & Fri. 8:30-12

Worship Services: 9:00 am each Sunday, live broadcast on Facebook
6:00 pm each Wednesday, Informal Service

We welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. – Romans 15:7

Online Giving - Mobile Access

Mobile users can now access the giving page to set up recurring donations or make one-time donations directly from phones using this QR code.
To change or delete recurring donations you will still need to go to: **https://givingtools.com** and sign in to your account.

Last Week at St. Martin's. . .
Week of 11/16/2025, Budget and Year to Date

Operating Contributions	$8,710.57	Budgeted Weekly Operating Need	$7,329.00
Benevolence Received	$351.00	Budgeted Weekly Benevolence Need	$713.00
Other Designated Income	$1,291.00	**AS OF 10/31/2025**	
Total Income	$10,352.57	YTD Operating Received	$285,181.20
Worship: Sunday/Wed/Total	145/22/167	YTD Operating Expenses	($299,835.84)
		Net Income/(Deficit)	($14,654.64)

St. Martin's Prayer Line

For our prayers in worship this morning and our daily devotions in the coming week, we remember:

- The Bethel Parish of Dodoma, Tanzania, and Mission Partner Congregation of Redeemer, Toledo, may they continue to carry out God's ministry in their areas of mission.
- Those caught in the fighting between Israel and Palestine, the Ukraine; those recovering from recent natural disasters and the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief and other relief agencies.

For those who need healing, may they know the healing hand of God:

Bob Alley, Louise Beldon's brother-in-law, health concerns
Tim Anderson, Bjorlin cousin, cancer
Beverly Bettison, friend of Angie Avers, health concerns
Jeff Cook, Ann Ott's son
Jan Delaney, knee replacement
Jim Hayes, brother of June Hayes, health concerns
Jeanise Hoeffel, Jane Sonnenberg's sister
Jayne Jewell, Diana Ziegler's cousin
Shelly Kammeyer, daughter in law of Sharon Blair, Leukemia
Sue Keil, Jake's mom
Bonnie R. Lauber
Nan Levenson, Ken Collins' mother, health concerns
Anne McCarty, health concerns
Ed Miller, Joan Smith's son-in-law
Ann Ott
Dorothy Gifford, Diane Parsons' sister, cancer
Thana Morong
Dick Nagel, health concerns
Conrad and Karen Perry, Andi Erbskorn's brother and sister-in-law
Bruce Pearson, Trudel family friend, cancer
Bill Phelps
Peg Roth
Eric and Susan Rupp, Greg Rupp's brother and sister-in-law, health concerns
Mary Schwartz, Dianne Parsons' sister
Al & Lois Siewert
Joan Smith
Mark Thatcher, health concerns
Brad Welsh, brother-in-law of John & Chris Shafer, cancer
Joyce Winzeler
Paul Wyse, health concerns
Joe Wyse
Homebound – Milla Kohv, Jerry & Alice Geiger

For those who need God's protection and the assurance of God's presence:

All members, family & friends who serve in our military: Patrick Cirenza (June Hayes), Bradly & Victoria Nilsson, Kennedy Hartung, Brendon Johns, Kasyn Schaffner

Any prayer requests to add or remove can be sent to the Church Office by Thursday of each week: stmartin@the-welcome-place.org **We include a person's name and details only with their permission.**

Take Up Your C.R.O.S.S.

2025 Stewardship Reminder of St. Martin's Lutheran Church

Connect | Relate | Offer | Study | Serve

Study the Word of God individually and with others

- Read
- Investigate
- Reflect
- Night & Day

Read

He answered, "Haven't you read?"
Matthew 12:3a

A search for "read" in the New Testament comes back with around a dozen occurrences (in some form or other) of "have you not read?". This seemed to be a favorite question of our Lord while He walked the earth. He didn't view His teachings as radical departures from the law of Moses. Rather, He was constantly pointing out how the answers that people sought were right in front of their faces – had they actually bothered to look.

The three lessons from scripture that are part of our Sunday worship service are not intended to be your C.R.W.A. (Church Recommended Weekly Allowance) of the Word. They simply are the basis for an hour's worth of teaching and worship. Jesus makes it clear that there is an expectation that we all read the Word that God has given us. The Bible wasn't intended to be a place to put your remote or a book to sit on a shelf. It was meant to be read. By you. Regularly. I would imagine if Christ appeared in flesh before us this minute and we were allowed to ask Him the question that burned in our hearts, His response would still begin with "have you not read?".

C.R.O.S.S. Challenge | Use the Word we are given to better know God

Poinsettia Order Form

The Altar Guild is sponsoring their annual Christmas Poinsettia Sale. The flowers will be red, and proceeds will be added to the Parament Fund. The plants are **$13.00** each and may be given in memory or in honor of someone.

Below is an order blank you may use to order your poinsettia. Please place it, along with payment (checks made payable to St. Martin's Lutheran Church), in the offering plate or the box provided on the counter in the Church Office.

Deadline - November 30

Name _____

# of plants _____ X **$13** - Total Amount _____

In Memory of _____

_____

In Honor of _____

_____