LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

The Royal Throne

AS WE GATHER

The disciples had hoped for thrones and power to rule beside Jesus, but the throne on which He pronounced His greatest edict was a cross. On it He prayed for forgiveness for His executioners. From it He promised paradise for the thief on a neighboring cross. And because of His royal sacrifice, the Father “delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.” Like the people of Malachi’s day, who saw evil running rampant, we may not understand all that is happening in the world around us. But we trust that in Christ God has made “peace by the blood of His cross.” So lift high the cross, for by it our sins are forgiven and paradise is open to us!
GATHERING SONG

BECAUSE WE BELIEVE

WOMEN  We believe in God, the Father,  
MEN     We believe in God, the Father,  
WOMEN  We believe in Christ, the Son,  
MEN     We believe in Christ, the Son,  
WOMEN  We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
MEN     We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
WOMEN  We are the Church and we stand as one,  
MEN     We are the Church and we stand as one.

CHORUS (ALL): Holy, holy, holy is our God; Worthy, worthy, worthy is our King.
             All glory and honor are His to receive;
             To Jesus we sing, because we believe.

WOMEN  We believe in the Holy Bible,  
MEN     We believe in the Holy Bible,  
WOMEN  We believe in the virgin birth,  
MEN     We believe in the virgin birth,  
WOMEN  We believe in the resurrection,  
MEN     We believe in the resurrection,  
WOMEN  That Christ, one day, will return to earth,  
MEN     That Christ, one day, will return to earth.  

CHORUS (ALL)

WOMEN  We believe in the blood of Jesus,  
MEN     We believe in the blood of Jesus,  
WOMEN  We believe in eternal life,  
MEN     We believe in eternal life,  
WOMEN  We believe in the blood that frees us,  
MEN     We believe in the blood that frees us,  
WOMEN  To become the bride of Christ.  
MEN     To become the bride of Christ.  

CHORUS (ALL)
PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG       ABOVE ALL
LeBlanc—Baloche

Above all powers, above all kings,
above all nature and all created things;
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,
You were here before the world began.

Above all kingdoms, above all thrones,
above all wonders the world has ever known;
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,
there’s no way to measure what You’re worth.

Crucified, laid behind the stone;
You lived to die, rejected and alone;
Like a rose, trampled on the ground,
You took the fall, and thought of me, above all.

INVOCATION

Pastor:    In the name of the Father and of the * Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People:    Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES    Psalm 46:11; Colossians 1:13–14

Pastor:    The L ORD of hosts is with us;
People:    the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Pastor:    He has delivered us from the domain of darkness
People:    and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
Pastor:    in whom we have redemption,
People:    the forgiveness of sins.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor:    Since we are confident of God’s forgiveness because of Christ’s sacrifice of Himself on the cross, let us confess our sins to God, our Father.
People:    Heavenly Father, we confess that by nature we regularly sin without even thinking. Our thoughts, words, and deeds reflect the world around us rather than the grace You have showered upon us. We have not loved You above all things; we have loved ourselves more than our neighbors. Without Your help, we cannot free ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, forgive us; by the power of Your Holy Spirit, renew in us clean hearts and willing minds that we
glorify Your holy name each day until we see the paradise You have so graciously promised us.

Pastor: The promises of God are sure! By the blood of Jesus’ cross He has made peace with us and reconciled us to Himself. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

※ WORD ※

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Malachi 3:13–18
(God promises to keep names in His book of remembrance.)

"You have said harsh things against me," says the LORD. "Yet you ask, `What have we said against you?'
"You have said, `It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty? But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.'"

Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name.

"They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 46; antiphon: v. 7

People: The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Pastor: God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Left side: Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
Right side: though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

Left side: though its waters roar and foam,
Right side: though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
Pastor: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

Left side: God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
Right side: God will help her when morning dawns.
Left side: The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
Right side: He utters His voice, the earth melts.

People: The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
Pastor: Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how He has brought desolations on the earth.

Left side: He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
Right side: He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
He burns the chariots with fire.
Pastor: “Be still, and know that I am God.
Left side: I will be exalted among the nations,
Right side: I will be exalted in the earth!”
People: The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

EPISTLE: Colossians 1:13–20
(Jesus is the image of the invisible God.)

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

(Jesus promises paradise to the thief on a neighboring cross.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come
when you will say, `Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then
"`they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!"
and to the hills, "Cover us!'"
For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.
The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."
The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."
There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"
But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."
Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY  WORTHY IS THE LAMB

Thank you for the cross, Lord. Thank you for the price you paid.
Bearing all my sin and shame, in love you came And gave Amazing Grace.

Thank you for this love, Lord. Thank you for the nail-pierced hands.
Wash me in Your cleansing flow, now all I know...Your forgiveness and embrace.

Worthy is the Lamb Seated on the throne.
We crown You now with many crowns You reign victorious!
High and lifted up Jesus, Son of God.
The darling of Heaven, crucified...Worthy is the Lamb.

SERMON

Pastor John Larson
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.

OFFERING

BLESS THE LORD (10,000 REASONS) Myrin/Redman

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.
The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

ALL:

CHORUS: Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name.

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. CHORUS

And on that day, when my strength is failing,
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending,
Ten thousand years, and then forevermore! CHORUS X2

Worship Your holy name,
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul;
I'll worship Your holy name,
Worship Your holy name, Worship Your holy name.
HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

✿ SACRAMENT ✿

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD  

Pastor: 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.”

LORD’S PRAYER  
Matthew 6:9–13  
Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

Amen!
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

Chorus: Do this in remembrance of Me.
Do this in remembrance of Me.
This is my body, this is my blood.
Do this in remembrance of Me.

This is My body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of Me.
This cup’s the new covenant, sealed in My blood.
Do this in remembrance of Me.
For whenever you eat this bread
and whenever you drink this cup,
as you do you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. CHORUS

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME

CHORUS

FOREVER REIGN

You are good, You are good, when there’s nothing good in me.
You are love, You are love, on display for all to see.
You are light, You are light, when the darkness closes in.
You are hope, You are hope, You have covered all my sin.

You are peace, You are peace, when my fear is crippling.
You are true, You are true, even in my wandering.
You are joy, You are joy, You’re the reason that I sing.
You are life, You are life, in You death has lost its sting.

CHORUS: Oh, I’m running to your arms, I’m running to your arms.
The riches of Your love will always be enough.
Nothing compares to Your embrace. Light of the world, forever reign.

You are more, You are more, than my words will ever say.
You are Lord, You are Lord, all creation will proclaim.
You are here, you are here, in Your presence I’m made whole.
You are God, You are God; Of all else I’m letting go. CHORUS

I’m running to your arms, I’m running to your arms.
The riches of Your love will always be enough.
Nothing compares to Your embrace. Light of the world, forever reign.

My heart will sing, no other Name, Jesus, Jesus.
My heart will sing, no other Name, Jesus, Jesus. CHORUS
GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
       The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
       The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
               Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG  BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC  Howe/Steffe

Mine eyes have seen the glory Of the coming of the Lord
He is trampling out the vintage Where the grapes of wrath are stored
He hath loosed the fateful lightning Of His terrible swift sword
His truth is marching on

CHORUS:  Glory glory hallelujah
         Glory glory hallelujah
         Glory glory hallelujah
         His truth is marching on

I have seen Him in the watchfires Of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar In the evening dews and damps
I can read His righteous sentence
In the dim and flaring lamps
His day is marching on  CHORUS

AGAPE ONLY:  In the beauty of the lilies
               Christ was born across the sea
               With a glory in His bosom
               That transfigures you and me
               As He died to make men holy
               Let us live to make men free
               While God is marching on

ALL:  Glory glory hallelujah
       Glory glory hallelujah
       Glory glory hallelujah
       His truth is marching on

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God.
Be still, and know that I am God.

Psalm 46:10
### Serving in Worship

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<td><strong>OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT</strong></td>
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<td>Pastor John Larson</td>
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<td><strong>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES</strong></td>
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<td>Michael Zehnder</td>
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<td><strong>YOUTH BAND/AGAPE</strong></td>
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<td>Rose Berger, Bri Fort, Lisa O'Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet, Larry Westra</td>
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<td><strong>ELDER</strong></td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Scott Luethy</td>
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<td>Roger Gaide</td>
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<td><strong>LECTOR</strong></td>
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<td>Jude Donovan</td>
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<td><strong>ACOLYTE</strong></td>
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<td>Chrissy Coon</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>Carly Calhoun</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>USHERS</strong></td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Clyde Wiggins, Members of the Congregation</td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SERVER</strong></td>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Jude Donovan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ALTAR GUILD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Gloria Mielke, Laurel Shurtleff</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FLOWERS</strong></td>
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<td>Edna &amp; Linda Achziger, in loving memory of Edward Achziger.</td>
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