



November 17th, 2024

Christ the King Sunday

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

The God-lived life is a life of *showing* God's love. Last month, we focused on letting that shine in serving others, doing things for them. In today's worship, the emphasis shifts a bit, and we look at the God-lived life as one that isn't only doing things for others but *opening our lives* to them. As we invite people into our lives and our homes, God gives us opportunities to show what we are all about and share who we are all about. Through hospitality, as messy and dangerous as it can be, relationships are built, and Jesus is shared.

This month, we focus especially on relationships in our lives that show and share Jesus.

Week One: A Life of Being a Disciple

Week Two: A Life Lived for Others

Week Three: A Life of Hospitality

Week Four: A Life of Thanksgiving

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord God, in coming to hear your Word this morning, you have planted us like trees beside streams of water. Grant that we may ever delight in your Word and yield abundant fruit in our lives, through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING HYMN: R243 *Worship the King*

GATHERING RITE

Music begins playing underneath spoken word.

M: We begin our worship in the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

M: Heavenly Father, you have blessed us with gifts to serve you and our neighbor. We repent for times we have used those gifts selfishly instead of generously and selflessly. Forgive us and let your peace rule our lives.

**C: ♪ May the peace of God my Father Rule my life in everything,
That I may be calm to comfort Sick and sorrowing. (CW467:3)**

M: Dear Savior Jesus, you have shown us the full extent of your love by giving your life for ours on the cross. Though that love is what ought to motivate our service, too often our service is grudgingly given, motivated by guilt and obligation, instead of generously given, motivated by your love. Forgive us and let your love fill our lives.

**C: ♪ May the love of Jesus fill me As the waters fill the sea,
Him exalting self abasing – This is victory. (CW467:4)**

M: O Holy Spirit, you want all people to be saved by the power of the Gospel. You also tell us that you use our Christian lives and service to lead them to hearing the Gospel. We are sorry when people see sin in our lives and not the good deeds you desire from us. Forgive us and live within us.

**C: ♪ May his Spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him. (CW467:6)**

M: As a called servant of the Triune God, I announce to you his grace and forgiveness. On behalf of and by the command of our Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C: ♪ May the mind of Christ my Savior Live in me from day to day,
By his love and pow'r inspiring All I do or say.**

**May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow'r. (CW467:1-2)**

M: We pray:

Almighty God, you sent your Son to become one of us to cleanse us and claim us. Give to us the same spirit of hospitality Jesus had to look on each stranger as someone you love, and therefore worthy of our time and concern; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**C: ♪ May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus As I onward go. (CW467:5)**

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Genesis 18:1-15

Abraham demonstrates a God-lived life, sacrificing hours and possessions to welcome strangers to his home. Led by God, we ought not hesitate to sacrifice for hospitality.

18 The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.

² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

³ He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. ⁵ Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

⁷ Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

⁹ "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.

"There, in the tent," he said.

¹⁰ Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

¹³ Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁵ Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh."

But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

RESPONSIVE READING: African American Heritage Hymnal

#101: Stewardship

GOSPEL:

Matthew 9:9-13

Jesus shows ultimate hospitality in inviting the tax collector to follow him. Matthew responds with the God-lived life by inviting his friends to his house and to Jesus.

⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ¹³ But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: B288 *Crown Him With Many Crowns*

SERMON TEXT: *Do Yourself a Favor – Be a Good Steward*

1. Give a percentage.
2. Test God.

Malachi 3:8-12

⁸ "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

"But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?'

"In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the LORD Almighty. ¹² "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

OFFERING: B307 *His Name is Wonderful*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, you humbled yourself to be born of a virgin. You became one of us. Your hospitality knew and knows no bounds. You invited fishermen, a tax collector, people from all walks of life to be your disciples. You welcomed little

children and took them up in your arms. You spoke to the woman at the well and offered her living water—forgiveness and life. Give us a rich measure of your Holy Spirit so that we take that same view of all people we meet. Lord in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Holy Spirit, you have turned our hearts from the darkness of sin and eternal death to the light of life and an eternity in heaven through Jesus Christ alone. You have given us eyes to see our Savior Jesus. Give us eyes to see each person we meet as one for whom our Savior died, and one God loves dearly. Give us the words to speak in love. Grow us in wisdom through our study of your word and grant us peace. Lord, in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Father, you created us and continue to provide and protect us. Give us the courage and trust to take you at your word. Your word tells us, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (II Cor. 9). Give us the courage to be hospitable to others whether in the family of believers or those not yet in the family of believers. Protect and provide for us and let our generosity overflow to strangers. Lord, in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Accept our prayers and grant all we need, not because we are worthy, but for the sake of Jesus Christ who lived a perfect life in our place and died for our sins and was raised again. Amen.

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

A Note to Our Guests:

The Bible tells us that those who receive communion together are to:

- 1. Recognize that Christ's true body and blood are present in the Sacrament (I Corinthians 11:29);*
- 2. Examine themselves (I Corinthians 11:28);*
- 3. Be united in faith with the congregation with which they commune (I Corinthians 10:17).*

Since it is not possible for us to know whether unity in these areas exist apart from a person's public confession, we practice close communion. That is, we ask only those who have publicly confessed oneness with us by membership in our congregation or another WELS congregation to come forward to join us for Holy Communion. If you have questions concerning this practice, or would like to establish a communion fellowship with us, please speak with our pastor. He would be happy to explore God's Word with you.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and ask you to help us live the life of a disciple.

All: Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is ✠ my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

M: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

All: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION: B289 *Jesus Shall Reign*

M: Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word.

C: For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures forever.

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.

Live in harmony with one another.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give ✠ you peace.

C: AMEN.

CLOSING HYMN: R485 *We Give Thee But Thine Own (v1, 2)*

Bible Class | Wednesdays | 7:00 pm

Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/xzp-nphi-sdt>

<u>Serving at CoL:</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Music	Karis, Elijah	Katherine, Elijah
Ushers	Perry, Lee	Bob, Keith
Reader	Elijah	Seth
Altar		
Streaming	Noah	Noah
Refreshments	Linda	
Cleaning	Quiana	
Mowing		

CALENDAR

Wednesday	7:00 PM Online Bible Class
Sunday	10:00 AM Bible Class, Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 AM Worship
Today	Ladies Guild
Nov 23 rd	11:00 AM Evangelism Visits
Nov 24 th	Council Meeting
Dec 14 th	Happy Birthday Jesus

OFFERING	Total	Budget	%Budget Met
Last Week	\$1,534.00	\$2,548.40	60.2%
October	\$10,766.05	\$11,043.08	97.5%
November	\$6,753.00	\$11,043.08	61.2%
Qtr-to-Date	\$17,519.05	\$33,129.25	52.9%
Year-to-Date	\$110,591.93	\$132,517.00	83.5%



*"...give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
II Corinthians 9:7*



CROWN OF LIFE