

Grace Episcopal Church

Grace is a Christ-centered Community devoted to Servant Ministry and Spiritual Growth.

Christ the King Sunday

November 23, 2025 9:30 AM

Holy Eucharist



What is Christ the King Sunday?

On the final Sunday of the church year, we celebrate Jesus' loving rule over all of creation. We can't proclaim that the Risen Jesus is King, however, without facing the truth at the heart of his story: he authenticates his kingship and demonstrates his love for us by his humble birth, his life of service, and his crucifixion. That is why, on Christ the King Sunday, we always read a Gospel lesson about Jesus' death.

Next Sunday, when Advent begins (What?! Already?!), we will prepare, once more, for his birth.

THE WORD OF GOD

The People standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Celebrant and People say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise 494 vss 1, 3, & 5 Crown him with many crowns

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own;
awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of heaven, enthroned in worlds above;
crown him the King, to whom is given, the wondrous name of Love.
Crown him with many crowns, as thrones before him fall,
crown him, ye kings, with many crowns, for he is King of all.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son,
the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and
enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Like his fellow major prophets, Isaiah and Ezekiel, Jeremiah's writings deal with Babylon's conquest of Jerusalem. Although this passage reads like a warning against careless religious leaders ("shepherds"), it is actually meant for all who bear authority, especially the kings of Judah. For Christians, these verses include a reference to Jesus, the "branch" of King David's family tree who will epitomize shepherding that is self-sacrificial and righteous (aka, upright/just/aligned with God's will).

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord.
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. 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. 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.

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. 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
People *Thanks be to God.*

Canticle 16 The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

A "canticle" refers to a song that is lifted off the pages of Scripture and read or sung aloud in worship. This canticle comes from Luke, where John the Baptist's father, Zechariah, sings it after his son is born. It echoes the prophecy about Jesus in Jeremiah and evokes the image we discussed last week of Christ's coming—both his first and his second!—being like rays of sunlight reaching out to us from the horizon.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; * he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, * born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, * from
the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers * and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, * to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, * holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, * for you will go before the Lord to
prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation * by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God * the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, * and to guide our feet into the
way of peace.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Lesson

Colossians 1:11-20

The amazing passage at the beginning of Paul's letter to a church in Corinth, Greece, is often referred to as "Hymn of the Cosmic Christ" because these verses paint a picture of Jesus as Lord over ... well, everything! This reading evokes the first chapter of John's Gospel, which presents Jesus as the Word of God through whom all things were spoken into being. It also calls to mind Eastern Christian art, where Jesus is depicted as "Pantokrator" (all-ruling), often at the top of a central dome in an Orthodox church.

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 giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 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. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 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. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 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.

People Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn 488

Be thou my vision

Please sing vs 1 & 2 before the Gospel.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; all else be nought to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father; thine own may I be; thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Luke 23:33-43

Take a look back at all of the readings we've heard today: Jesus is the righteous branch from the tree of Israel's mightiest king. He is "the dawn from on high," shining God's light into all creation. He is the all-ruling power by which everything that exists is both created AND reconciled! And where do we find him today? On a cross. What's more, here, in his final moment, he is exercising forgiveness rather than revenge.

When 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. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Hymn 488

Be thou my vision
Please sing vs 3 after the Gospel.

High King of heaven, when victory is won, may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Sermon

The Reverend Danielle Thompson

The 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially: Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Glenda and Brian, our Bishops; Danielle, our Priest; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons.
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially: Donald, our president; Kay, our governor; and for the mayors, city councils, and county commissions of the Shoals.
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

We pray for those on our intercessory prayer list, saying together

Charlan, Everett, David, Lily, Michael, Robin, David, Andy, Wendell, Cindy, Bruce, Frances, Harold, Logan, August, Sean, Tim, Carolyn, Karen, Jim, Wayne, Rebecca, Ron, Tommy B, LaVera, & Peter.

We pray for all whose work puts them in harm's way and for those on active duty in the military, saying together

Nathan, Joshua, Drake, Carter, Ethan, Jacobi, Kahleel, Henry, Jacob, Kadin, Dustin, & Rebekah.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries:

Mary Holland Black, Patti Thorne, Jerry Shea, Shannon Byrd, Jem Davis, Drew Daniel, & Paula & Sam Brentnall.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for the Diocese of Alabama, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for your people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Concluding Prayer

Hasten, O Father, the coming of thy kingdom; and grant that we thy servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold thy Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the People

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Offertory Anthem

Every Hallelujah

Grace Choir

There is no greater song. There is no greater fame.
There is no other Savior. There is no other name.
Creation testifies. The angels stand in awe
To hear the saints declaring the greatness of our God.

*Chorus: Let ev'ry Hallelujah, let ev'ry glad refrain
Invite the King of Heaven to come and take His place.
With every voice proclaiming the great things He has done,
Let God be crowned with glory with ev'ry Hallelujah.*

There is no higher king. There is no higher throne.
Majestic and eternal, His Kingdom stands alone.
There is no other rock we build our lives upon.
We rise and give Him honor. All praise to Him belongs!

Doxology

Duke Street

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Instructions for receiving Communion are found at the end of this prayer.

Blessed are you, God of creation;
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory,
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God forever. *Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

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

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Land of Rest

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Then the Celebrant continues.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith,

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN*.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the People, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

Please come to the altar rail to receive Communion. You may kneel or stand. Receive a wafer from the Priest by holding out your hands. To receive the wine, please dip the wafer in the chalice or drink from the chalice. If you do not wish to receive Communion, cross your arms over your chest and the Priest will offer you a Blessing.

Communion Music 614

Christ is the King!

Postcommunion Prayer

The Celebrant and People continue

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn 388

O worship the King

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Servants Today – November 23

VOD

Mary Holland Black

Safety

Mike Williams

Greeter

Bob & Mary Ann
Allan

Usher

Heidi Vacik

Reader

Josh Davis

Acolytes

Dennis Cole
& Lisa Gardner

Chalice

Mary Ann Allan
& Dennis Cole

Server

Bob Allan

Cross

Bob Allan

Altar Guild

Mary Holland Black, Jessie Wilson, Annie Laurie Gray, Jan Bennett, & Rita Kelly

Fellowship

Patti Thorne

The altar flowers are given in loving memory of our daughter, Andrea Bennett Cain MD, whose remarkable life remains a source of inspiration for us.

–Jan and Jerry Bennett

The rose on the altar is given in celebration of our new Grandson, Liam Ross Kirchner.

–Rita and David Kelly

Rev. Danielle would love to hear from you! Please do not hesitate to contact her!

931-636-4898

THOMDL80@gmail.com

Grace Church Vestry 2025

Mary Holland Black
David Kelly – Senior Warden
Heidi Vacik – Junior Warden

Dennis Cole
David McKinley
Janet Port – Treasurer
Darrell Todd– Clerk

Lisa Gardner
Annie Laurie Gray
Jerry Shea

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Rector: The Reverend Danielle Thompson

Parish Musician: Christa Belue Byrd

Organist: Nancy Hughes Bolte

Bookkeeper: Gayle Ozbirn

Parish Administrator: Lane Hardison Ennis



ANNOUNCEMENTS



To receive email updates, please fill out a visitor's card
or send an email to gracesheffieldoffice@gmail.com

TODAY: VESTRY MEETING – Vestry members, please gather in the Conference Room downstairs at 11 AM for our monthly meeting!

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY – On November 30, we will enjoy Annual Meeting Sunday. On this day, we will return pledge cards, hear a sermon from Senior Warden David Kelly, vote for a slate of three new Vestry members, and celebrate the beginning of the Advent Season. Written Annual Meetings reports will be distributed to you prior to November 30. New Vestry class to be presented: *Chris Earl, Kris Walls, Troy Youngblood*.

SHOALS SHELTER – Home Free Haven is now Shoals Shelter! Grace's first date to host is Thurs, Dec 4. Volunteers are still needed for Thursday night dinner, the 2 AM - 6 AM overnight shift on Friday morning, and to set up cots on Thursday afternoon: bit.ly/4oGxEtY

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP – Lessons and Carols will take place on Sunday, Dec 7, at 9:30 AM – the service will include Holy Communion. On Christmas Eve, we will once more have a quiet service of Morning Prayer at St. John's at 10 AM. Our main service will be Holy Eucharist with candlelight at Grace at 5 PM.

SHOALS CHAMBER SINGERS – On December 9, Grace hosts Shoals Chamber Singers' winter concert, "The Blessed Arrival." Free, open to the public, and always worth it!



THIS WEEK AT GRACE

MON, NOV 24

8a: Men's Bible Study
10a-3p: Regular Office Hours

TUES, NOV 25

10a-3p: Regular Office Hours

WEDS, NOV 26

10a-5p: Regular Office Hours
6p: Choir Practice

THU, NOV 27

Happy Thanksgiving!
Parish Office hours will not take place today!



SUN, NOV 30

9:30a: Holy Eucharist
10:30a: Annual Meeting & Fellowship

