



**Midweek Service
Grace Lutheran Church
Lincoln, Nebraska**

Opening

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, **have mercy on us.**

Introduction to Sunday

This Sunday is Christ the King. A Sunday that marks the end of the church liturgical year. Our gospel reminds us that in the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth so that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Prayer of the Day

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Readings

Ezekiel 34

¹¹Thus says the Lord God: I will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.

How is your faith like that of a sheep?

Psalm 95

1Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

How is God the rock of your salvation?

Ephesians 1

22And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

How is our church like the body of Christ?

Matthew 25

32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

What is the difference between sheep and goats? Why is this significant?

Reflection

King of the World

On Christ the King Sunday we are reminded that Jesus is a king driven by humility before God and a desire to restore the world. His ministry on earth revealed that God's reign operates with an ethic of care for the most vulnerable and most in need of compassion. As God's appointed stewards of creation, we are called to exercise self-emptying and servant-like power in our relationship with others and the natural world. As we do unto others including the oceans, atmosphere, and soil, we do unto Christ. So as disciples of Christ we need to value the kind of power that Jesus demonstrated rather than the power of death and destruction known by so many in our world today.

Lord's Prayer

**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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Apostle's Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Responsive Prayer

Show us your mercy, O God,
and grant us your salvation.
Give us the joy of your saving help again,
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.
Give peace in all the world;
for only in you can we live in safety.
Keep the nations under your care,
and guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Let your way be known upon earth;
your saving health among all nations.
Let not the needy be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.
Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come before you.

Closing Prayer

O God, in you we live and move and have our being. Guide and govern us every day by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but remember that always we are walking in your promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dismissal

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

Blessing

Almighty God (+) bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**