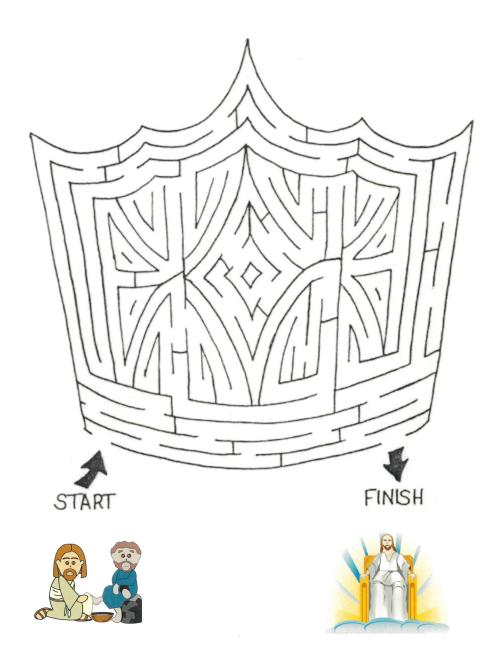
# JESUS IS THE KING OF KINGS





# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620 www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

# November 19, 2023 + Christ the King Sunday

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. 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. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

### + GATHERING +

#### Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

### Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





# **Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we would confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Today we rejoice to see Jesus as our Shepherd and King.

(Let us take a moment of silence for reflection and confession.)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We are children of Adam and have strayed like so many sheep. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God has given his Son to die for us, and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. He has made us his children in Christ and has promised to shepherd us into eternal pastures already prepared. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

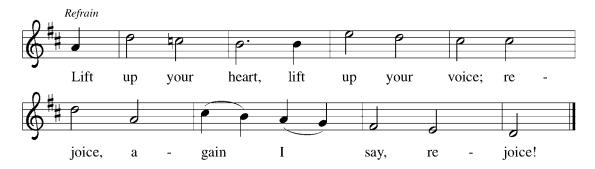
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# Titles for Jesus

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19

PRINCE MESSIAH **MEDIATOR** ALPHA TRUTH TEACHER **EMMANUEL** OMEGA LIFE WAY TRINITY I AM COUNSELOR **POTTER** ROCK LAMB CHRIST SAVIOR KING



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

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### **Dismissal**

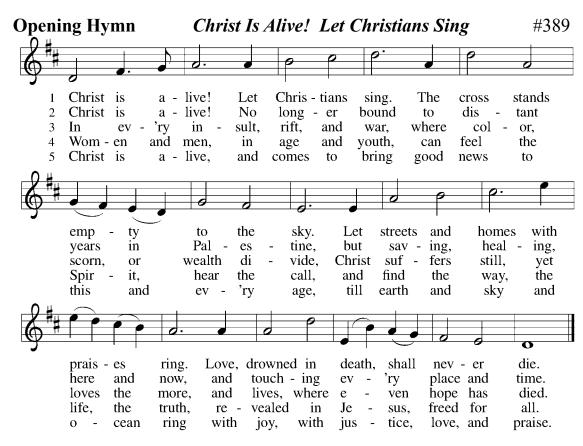
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.





"This is a HARD way to make pumpkin pie, Grandma. Don't you know how to make the frozen kind?"

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Music: T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

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# **Opening Litany**

Over the heads of all people on earth, Christ the King holds his shepherding staff.

And his shadow rests upon us all.

Not one person is beyond his line of sight.

Everyone is under his care and command.

With Christ the King in charge of our lives and guiding our path, we can become like little shepherds in this world, caring for the members of his flock who are sick, hurting, and in need.

With the voice of Christ the King echoing over every hill and valley, every high and low in our lives, we can become like little shepherds in this world, speaking the truth about God's love to the lonely and imprisoned, the wayward and the lost.

With Christ the King surrounding us with fields of plenty and streams of water,

we can become like little shepherds surrounding the hungry and thirsty in our midst with plenty to eat and drink.

With Christ the King confidently taking us closer to perfectly safe and secure places, we can become like little shepherds, pointing others toward the promised land of heaven, where every need of body and soul will be met forever.

As the Savior's staff leans forward toward the gates of bliss, Jesus announces to all, "Become for others what I came to be for you." May we lead the life of little shepherds until we see our Shepherd-King face to face.

# **Apostolic 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** 

Hark the Glad Sound

Bell Choir

# **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray... (A brief silence is kept.)
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,

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray... (A brief silence is kept.)
Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way. Amen.

#### + SENDING +

#### **Announcements**

### **Benediction**

Amen.

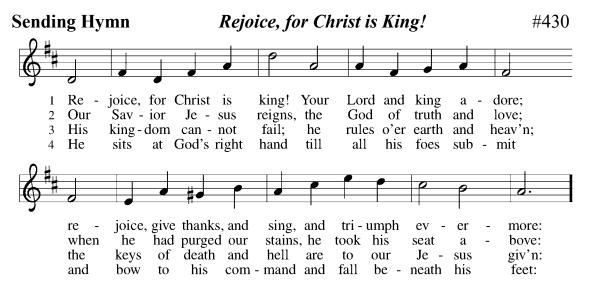
This is the day the Lord has made.

Go from this place as those acknowledging Christ's Kingship.

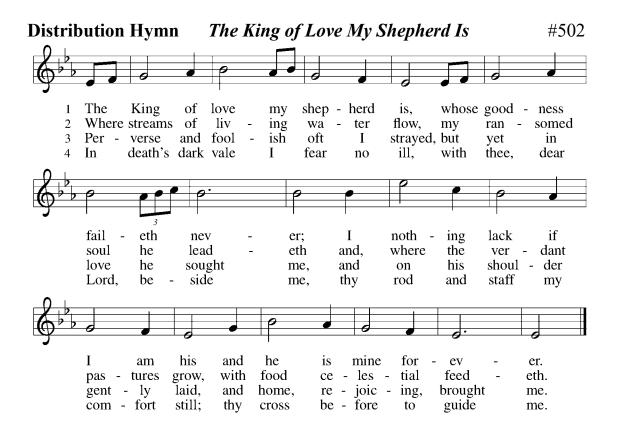
Leave this place as those who live under Christ's Lordship.

Live your lives as those who are blessed by Christ's never-failing love.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



Song continues on next page.



- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth; and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877 Music: Irish tune Public Domain

### **Table Blessing**

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.** 



who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### + WORD +

**First Reading** 

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

A reading from Ezekiel.

11 Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup> As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. <sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 95:1-7a

Let us read Psalm 95 responsively.

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

<sup>2</sup>Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

<sup>7a</sup>For the LORD is our God. and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

# **Second Reading**

Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

A reading from Ephesians.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and

# Crown Him with Many Crowns

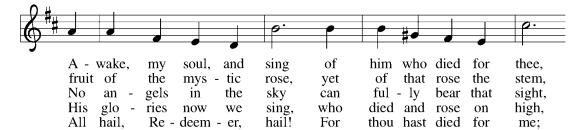
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- Crown him with man y crowns, the Lamb up on his throne; Crown him the vir - gin's Son, God in - car - nate born,
- the Crown him the Lord of love be - hold his hands and side,
- Crown him the Lord life, who tri - umphed o'er the of grave
- Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate time,



hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own. whose arm those crim-son tro-phies won which now his brow a - dorn; rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied. and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save. cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub-lime.





and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty. the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem. but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys-ter-ies so bright. e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die. thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

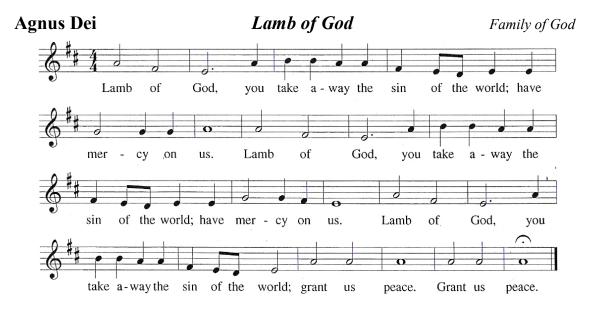
Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4 Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893 Public Domain



# **Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

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**

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.



authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

**Gospel Verse** 

Festive March

Bell Choir

**Holy Gospel** 

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

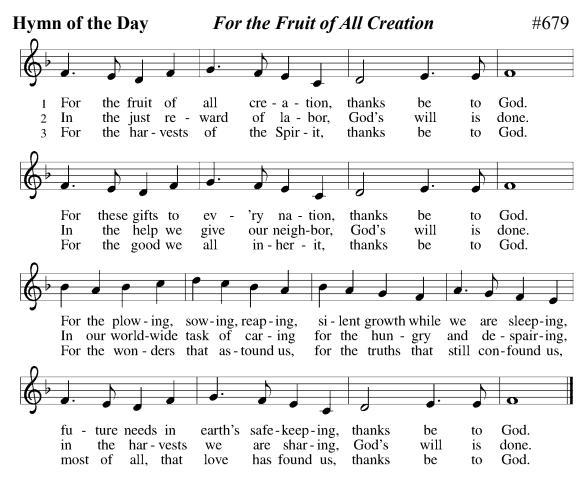
The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** 

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. '44Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we

saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

### Children's Time Sermon



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Send now that same Spirit to breathe upon your church and make it resound with your praise.

Sanctify this bread and cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thank

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying:

"Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do in remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup, again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

# Christ has died: Christ is Risen; Christ will come again.

God of glory, you sent Jesus to be our prophet, priest and king, and you show us his face

in the face of those on whom the world turns its back.

As the tempted Christ was hungry in the wilderness, make yourself known to all who search for food.

As the crucified Christ was thirsty hanging on the tree, reveal your love among those who lack clean water.

As the infant Christ was a stranger in Egypt, manifest your presence through many who are pilgrim from afar.

As the newborn Christ was naked in the manger, live in all who experience shame and exposure.

As Christ in his passion was sick to the heart in Gethsemane, declare your grace among those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

And as Christ under judgment was a prisoner under Pontus Pilate, be with all who are incarcerated by folly, injustice, or fear.

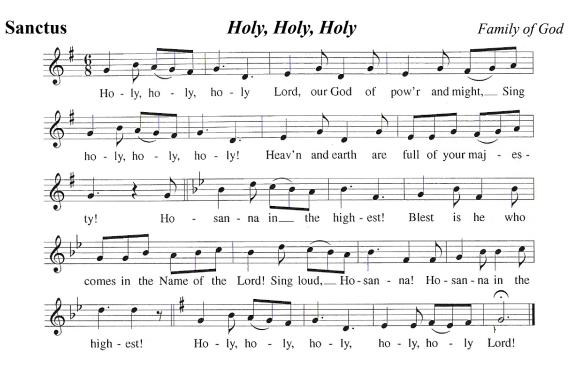
Renew your church by making it resemble Jesus, our crucified King, our Savior, Lord, and Friend, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

Amen.

and led them out of Egypt and Babylon to take refuge in your sheepfold.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus to be our shepherd king, leading us beside still waters, delivering us from the valley of the shadow of death, and restoring our souls.

And so with all your gathered flock, with sheep that are not of this fold, and with saints and angels surrounding your glorious throne we praise your name and join the unending hymn:



### **Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution**

Abundant God, you bestow upon your people the riches of your glorious inheritance and the immeasurable greatness of your power.

You send upon your disciples the Spirit of wisdom and revelation.

# **Apostles' Creed**

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

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 into hell.

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.

# **Prayers of the People**

P Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A Holy God,

from Christ we receive our call to feed, clothe, and welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love.

We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

P In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

A In Christ we know merciful judgment.

Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making.

Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

P In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. We pray for those who suffer, *especially*... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

A In Christ we are made the people of his pasture.

Inspire the outreach and social ministries of this congregation.

We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

A Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home.

We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us.

Unite them with us as one body of Christ.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

P We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

### Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

# **+** OFFERING **+**





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### **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God, It is right to give our thanks and praise.



# **Proper Preface**

It is our duty and our joy to thank and praise you, God of heaven and earth;

for you are our shepherd, who called Abraham by name, gathered a people under Moses, fed your flock in the wilderness,