APOSTLE'S CREED **ELW page 105**

SHARING THE PEACE L) The peace of Christ be with you all. ***C) And also with you.***

"MEAL"

OFFERING/OFFERING **"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"** **ELW #512**

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH L) Lord in your mercy ***C) Receive our Prayer***



HOLY COMMUNION *(continuous))*

- ✞ **Words of Institution**
- ✞ **The Lord's Prayer** - ELW page 112
- ✞ **Distribution of the Sacrament**

"SENDING"

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG **"Lead On, O King Eternal" v-1,3** **ELW #805**

1 Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come; henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home. Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

3 Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears, for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears. Your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!

DISMISSAL L) Go in peace, Serve the Lord and your neighbors. ***C) Thanks be to God!***

POSTLUDE



Christ the King SUNDAY

Willow Creek and Benton Lutheran Churches

November 22nd, 2026
Vicar Kendra Kappler and Pastor Renae Boehmer
Accompanist: Paul Mesner, Willow Creek, Kari Vosburg, Benton

"GATHERING"

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP- CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
Come, let us worship the Lord, our King!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture.
Come, let us rejoice in the love of our Good Shepherd!
For we belong to him, now and forever.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
As we gather in the presence of our loving Shepherd, we begin by remembering whose we are and trusting in the mercy of the One who calls us his own.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✞ one God, whose love never fails, whose mercy knows no end, and whose kingdom is forever. ***Amen.***

Trusting in the goodness of our Shepherd, let us confess our sin before God and one another.
Silence for reflection.

Merciful God, ***we confess that we do not always live as people who belong to you.***
We are quick to judge others and slow to recognize our own need for grace.
We turn away from those who are hungry, lonely, hurting, or forgotten, failing to recognize your presence among them. We worry about whether we have done enough to earn your love, forgetting that your love has already been given. Forgive us. Open our eyes to see you, our hearts to love you, and our hands to serve you. Amen.

Hear the good news! Our Lord Jesus Christ is not a king who rules from a distance, but a Shepherd who comes looking for us, who binds up the injured, strengthens the weak, and gathers us into his care.

In Jesus Christ, God has claimed you as God's own—not because of all you have done, but because of all Christ has done for you. Your sins are forgiven. You are loved. You belong to God. In the name of the Father, and of the ✞ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

OPENING HYMN **"Crown Him with Many Crowns" v-1,2,5** **ELW #855**

1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne; hark, how the heav'nly 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.

2 Crown him the virgin's Son, the God incarnate born, whose arm those crimson trophies won which now his brow adorn; fruit of the mystic rose, yet of that rose the stem, the root whence mercy ever flows, the babe of Bethlehem.

5 Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time, creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime. All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me; thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of mercy and love, ***you are our King and our Shepherd, seeking us when we wander and claiming us as your own. Open our eyes to recognize your presence in the hungry, the stranger, the sick, and the forgotten. Free us from fear and fill us with gratitude, that, secure in your love, we may share that love freely with all your children; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.***

"WORD"

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As shepherds
sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort 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. 13 I
will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and 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. 14 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. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says
the Lord GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, 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.
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean
sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your
horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged,
and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed
them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince
among them; I the LORD have spoken.
L) Word of God, Word of Life. ***All) Thanks be to God.***

SECOND READING **Psalm 95:1-7a**

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
2 ***Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.***
3 For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.
4 ***In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.***
5 The sea is yours, or you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.
6 ***Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.***
7a For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.
L) Word of God, word of life. ***All) Thanks be to God.***

CHILDREN'S SONG/MESSAGE **"The Wonders of Worship – WOW!"**

I wonder. I wonder. The wonders of worship, what does it mean?
I wonder. I wonder. The wonders of worship, what does it mean?
Come and see! Come now and see!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **Jesus, Name Above All Names**

Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 25:31-46**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "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. 32 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, 33 and he will
put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right
hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the
foundation of the world, 35 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, 36 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.' 37 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? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and
gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the
king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and
sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed,
depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you
gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 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.'
44 Then 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?' 45 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.' 46 And these will go away
into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."
L) Word of God, word of life. ***All) Thanks be to God.***

SERMON **"Sheep or Goat?"** **Pastor Renae Boehmer**

HYMN OF THE DAY **"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" v-1,2,3,6** **ELW #502**

1 The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.

2 Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth
and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.

6 And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.