## BENEDICTION

Worship Christ, Eternal Son of God. Honor Christ, Incarnate Son of Mary. Serve Christ, Glorious Ruler of creation.

May the blessing of God, holy Trinity, be with you, this day and forevermore.

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press

# **POSTLUDE**

## "WE GATHER TOGETHER"

**DANA MOODY** 

Today's service is being broadcast on Facebook Live at 11 am. You can access the service through the Oaklette Church Group on Facebook. You can also access the sermon through the Oaklette UMC Facebook page. If you are unable to use Facebook Live, a link can be sent to you by email after the Facebook Live Worship has been recorded, but we will need your email address to do this. The Facebook Live service will also be uploaded to our website.

The Food Basket before the altar is presented to the glory of God.

The flowers on the altar are presented to the glory of God by Jerome Dickinson in honor of his birthday.



# **PARTNERS IN MINISTRY TODAY**

**Members of the Church** 

Nursery Care Providers: Lisa Maddrey-Ryno and Brooks Ryno

**Prayer Partner:** 

Lay Reader: Debbie Rippard

**Audio-Visual Operator: Ericka Litten Greeter: Joanne Rooks** 

Pastor: Rev. Ned Alderman

**Administrative Assistant: Eileen Ballance** 

**Financial Secretary: Edna Bess** 

Coastal Virginia Dist. Superintendent: Rev. Beth Givens Resident Bishop, Richmond Area: Bishop Sue Haupert-Johnson

**CCLI License #1625684** 



# Oaklette United Methodist Church "God's Body in this Community"

"Oaklette United Methodist Church through worship, education, and outreach, seeks to make the gospel of Jesus Christ real, as we minister to all people."

# November 23, 2025 Christ the King Sunday



Welcome in the name of our Lord. A nurturing and well-supervised nursery is available for infants and young children. A cry room is also available. Please ask the greeter for further assistance and directions to these rooms.

## GREETING

# **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

Loving, sustaining God, like the mighty oak, may our branches at Oaklette church embrace those around us in this community. Use us as an instrument to welcome and shelter your people. Deepen our roots so that our branches are strong. Let the Holy Spirit flow like a river through our church, so that we may do your will. In Jesus' holy name, Amen.

## FIRST GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:68-79, CEB

"Bless the Lord God of Israel because he has come to help and has delivered his people. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in his servant David's house, just as he said through the mouths of his holy prophets long ago. He has brought salvation from our enemies and from the power of all those who hate us. He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and remembered his holy covenant, the solemn pledge he made to our ancestor Abraham. He has granted that we would be rescued from the power of our enemies so that we could serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in God's eyes, for as long as we live. You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way. You will tell his people how to be saved through the forgiveness of their sins. Because of our God's deep compassion, the dawn from heaven will break upon us, to give light to those who are sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide us on the path of peace."

"GIVE THANKS"

SHELLENE CASTELLOW, FLUTE

**PRELUDE** 

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

# **MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Amid the holiday rush, let's pause to reflect: not yet on a stable, or star, or Advent candles, or everything for which we're thankful.

Those days are surely coming, but others as well: days of holiness and righteousness, salvation and safety, deliverance and rescue; the dawn of a day when God's tender mercy will vanquish oppression and death. Such are the days of Christ's reign.

# They are surely coming! Let's celebrate today!

Adapted from the Abingdon Worship Annual 2010 copyright 2009 by Abingdon Press.

# **OPENING PRAYER**

God of all times and all places, be with us in this time and this place. Just as you have spoken to your people through prophets and poets, we pray that we might hear the Word you speak to us today. Just as you have spoken to your people through deeds and miracles, we pray that we might have eyes to see the Word you speak to us today. Just as you have called your people to act in the midst of your creation, we pray that we might have feet to walk and hands to reach out; for the sake of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press.

# HYMN "O CHRIST, WHEN YOU ASCENDED"

#3087

O Christ, when you ascended, you took your rightful throne; Your time on earth had ended – yet we weren't left alone. You reign o'er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way. Your prayers uphold your people; you lead your church each day.

We look at earthly rulers and see what they command:
We note their years of power, the borders of their land.
Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and space;
Your reign is never-ending, you rule in every place.

We're tempted. Lord, to leave you in stories nicely told; Sometimes we don't believe you and say your ways are old. Sometimes we feel so lonely and live in doubt and fear — But your ascension means, Lord, you're present with us here.

It's often quite a challenge to follow in your Way; We're easily distracted! It's hard, Lord, to obey. Sometimes we give you Sundays – an hour, maybe two – But your ascension means, Lord, all life belongs to you.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING/DEDICATION

Compassionate Shepherd, You do not abandon your flock, even when we wander or divide. You gather us in Christ, our righteousness, and teach us to live in unity, mercy, and peace. As we bring these gifts, may they be signs of our desire to follow your way – offering compassion where there has been hurt, justice where there has been harm, and hope where there has been despair. Strengthen us to live as people waiting not in fear, but in faith – serving the reign of Christ not just with words, but with lives shaped by generosity and love. In the name of the One who gathers and leads us always. Amen.

## **DOXOLOGY**

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.

# HYMN "LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE"

#626

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly minded
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God
To earth descendeth
Our full homage to demand

King of kings yet born of Mary
As of old on earth He stood
Lord of lords in human vesture
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way As the Light of light descendeth From the realms of endless day That the pow'rs of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph Cherubim with sleepless eye Veil their faces to the Presence As with ceaseless voice they cry Alleluia, alleluia Alleluia, Lord Most High

# RESPONSE TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in one God.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

He is the true and living God,

worthy to receive glory and honor and power.

He created all things;

by his will they existed and were created.

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ;

all things came into being through him.

He is the image of the invisible God,

the firstborn of all creation.

In him all things in heaven and on earth were created.

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Being in the form of God, he emptied himself;

he took the form of a slave, and was born in human likeness.

Being found in human form, he humbled himself;

he became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;

he was buried; he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.

God also highly exalted Jesus:

he gave him the name that is above every name.

God has put all things under his feet:

he made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body.

We believe that Jesus died and rose again:

through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

As all die in Adam,

so all will be made alive in Christ.

Thanks be to God

who gives us the victory.

Copyright 2009 Anglican Church of Australia, Diocese of Sydney. From Worship & Song, Worship Resources Edition, copyright 2011 by Abingdon Press

# **GLORIA PATRI**

# INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In Colossians 1:15–16, the blessed apostle Paul sings the praises of our Lord Jesus Christ, the firstborn of all creation; in whom all things in heaven and on earth were created. Let us affirm God's sovereignty over all creation, continuing our worship through the offering of our gifts to the Lord.

Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2 © 2012 Westminster John Knox Press

One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are fully known; One day this world of sinners will bow before your throne. One day, God's whole creation will sing and praise your name; On earth as now in heaven, we'll celebrate your reign.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Imagining your reign can be difficult, eternal God. It is difficult to picture a world governed by your justice and righteousness alone. Our minds are held captive by the worst images of human kings, rulers, and powers.

When nobler visions fail and we settle for kingdoms of our own making, correct and forgive us. Free the borders of our imaginations, that we may envision your greater good and celebrate the coming of your reign on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Lay Reader: Hear the prophecy of Zechariah: Tender mercy and forgiveness are the ways of God. We are forgiven. Let the church say, **Amen.** 

Hans Holznagel, "Worship Elements: November 20, 2022," Ministry Matters, <a href="https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4410/worship-elements-november-20-2022">https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4410/worship-elements-november-20-2022</a>.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

## **HYMN SING**

# SECOND GOSPEL READING

Luke 23:33-43, CEB

When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one." The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine and saying, "If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself." Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read "This is the king of the Jews."

One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, "Don't you fear God, seeing that you've also been sentenced to die? We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise."

LESSON "LET THE KING SURPRISE YOU"

NED ALDERMAN