CHRIST THE KING

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

WHERE COMMUNITY GATHERS AND GROWS

November 22, 2026

Christ the King

Sunday, November 22, 2026

(indicates the assembly stands)*

Gathering

Prelude	*"Variations on Westminster Abbey"*	R. Proulx
Words of Welcome & Service Announcements		
*Hymn 434		*"Jesus Shall Reign"*
*Greeting		
*Prayer of the Day		
Anthem	*"The King of Love"*	E. Bairstow

Word

First Reading		Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95		p. 300
Second Reading		Ephesians 1:15-23
*Gospel Acclamation	*"Alleluia"*	p. 102
*Gospel Reading		Matthew 25: 31-46
Sermon		
*Hymn of the Day (see page 4)		*"Come Now, You Blessed"*

Healing and Wholeness

*Gathering Words (see page 5)

Confession and Forgiveness (see page 5)

Laying on of Hands

Hymns during Laying on of Hands 221, 613

*Peace

Meal

*Offering Hymn 531 *"The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing"*

*Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving		p. 107
*Holy, Holy, Holy		p. 108
*Thanksgiving at the Table I		p. 108
*Lord's Prayer *(Our Father, who art in heaven…)*		p. 112
Lamb of God		p. 112

Communion Hymns 432, 430

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Sending

General Announcements

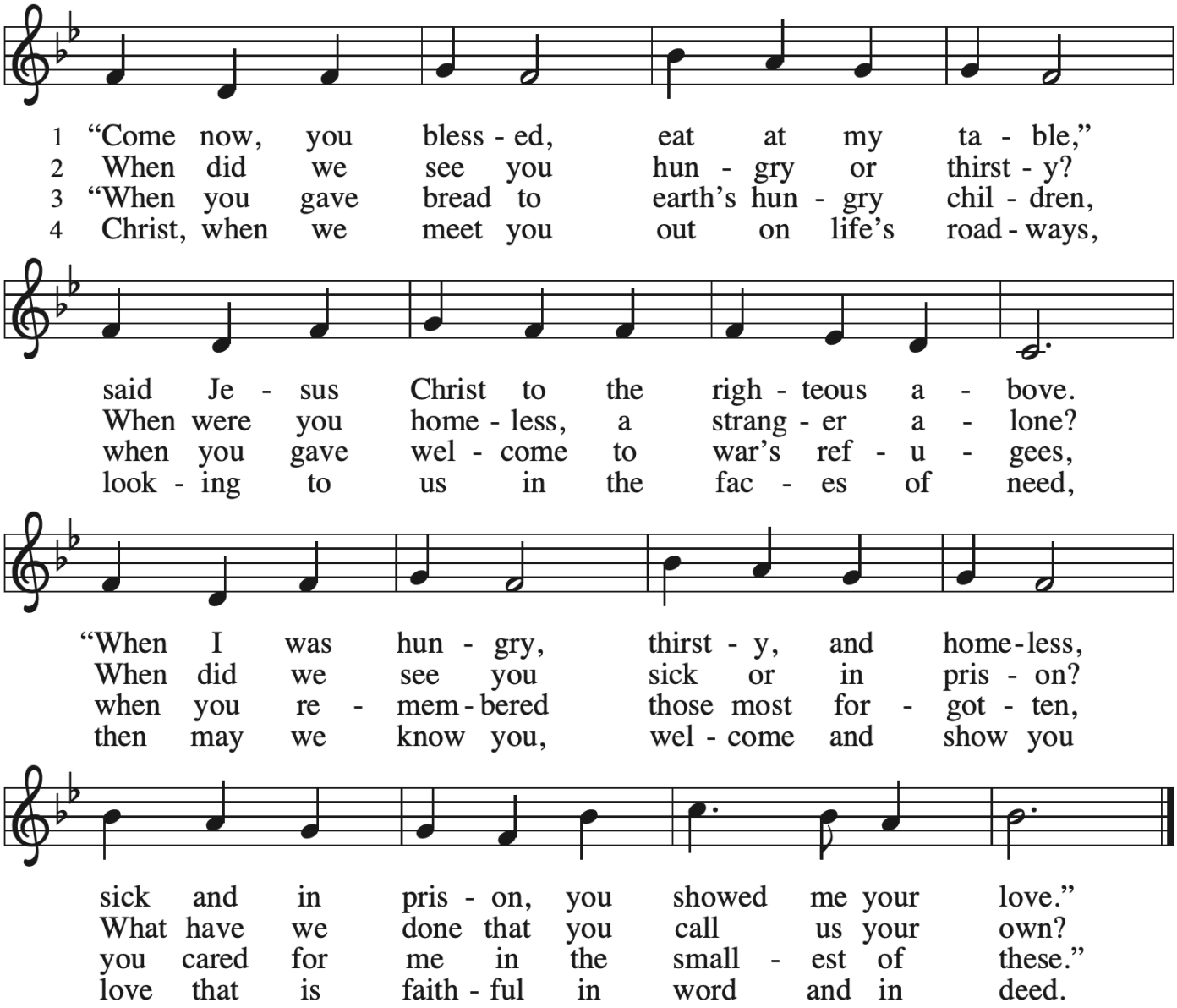
*Blessing

*Hymn 431		*"O Christ, What Can it Mean for Us"*
*Dismissal		**A: Thanks be to God.**
Postlude	*"March in D Op. 56 No. 3"*	A. Guilmant

Cover image and Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB142079. "For Healing and Wholeness" by Meta Herrick Carlson, from "Speak It Plain: Words for Worship and Life Together", 2020.

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.

Come Now, You Blessed



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: MATTHEW 25, Emily R. Brink, b. 1940
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Gathering Words

P: We feel anxious.

A: So we gather.

P: We feel pain.

A: So we gather.

P: We feel sorrow.

A: So we gather.

P: We feel lonely.

A: So we gather.

P: We feel weary.

A: So we gather.

P: We feel fractured.

A: So we gather.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: When we confess, we acknowledge the ways we have been living apart from relationship with God and each other.

A: We confess our sin, our separation, and our suffering. Grant us mercy, undeserved and extravagant, so we are restored to dignity, belonging, and purpose that come from you.

“Christ the King”, by Meta Herrick Carlson

We dare to declare that Christ is King
on the eve of a new year in the life of the church.
Such simple proclamation, and yet easily forgotten.
So central to our faith, and yet dangerous to speak in the shadow of empires.
Christ is King, the patriarchy is not.
Christ is King, white supremacy is not.
Christ is King, democracy is not.
Christ is King, big money is not.
Christ is King, the status quo is not.
Christ is King, the church is not.
Christ is King, and I am not.
It rings in our ears like auld lang syne— Christ is King!
The last and truest word of all.

Leading Worship Today

Ministers: Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer

Assisting Minister: Scott Kuschnereit

Diaconal Minister of Music: Deacon Scott Knarr

Choir Director and Soloist: Corey Linforth

Choral Scholars: Nicole Hamilton, Hannah Swiderski, Lindsay Scott, Caroline Schmidt, Drew Aarssen

Communion Server: Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson

Broadcast: Jamie Foley

Building Monitor: Dennis Diebolt (519-571-4525)

Information for today's worship

- **Offering:** Please place your offering in one of the offering plates in the Narthex (entranceway) upon entering. The offering plates will be presented at the High Altar during the service.
- **Please join us for Fellowship Time** after worship in the Community Hall. Use any of the staircases (Narthex, west stair tower, parking lot tower) to go down.
- **Downstairs Washrooms** can be accessed via any of the staircases. There is one wheelchair accessible washroom, and the rest are all-gender washrooms. A further all-gender washroom is also available via the west stair tower door (front left of the Sanctuary) on the same level. Turn right at the hallway.

Worship Notes

In our prayers, Joan and Terry, Maureen, Meaghan, Jeanette, Kevin, Anneke, Judy and Gary.

All are welcome at the meal where Jesus is present loving and forgiving us. For the wine, there is a common cup station and a pouring chalice station (please take an empty small glass). There is also a small tray of pre-poured grape juice glasses. Gluten-free wafers are also available; please indicate this request to the Pastor. If you would (also) like to receive a blessing, please approach the Pastor with your arms crossed over your chest. If you'd like to receive Communion in your pew, the pastor will come to you. Please let an usher or the pastor know before worship if possible.

General Announcements

The 2027 Offering Envelope Boxes will be available for pick up starting Sunday November 29, 2026, outside the church office.

Advent Carol Service Baking Request: Your St. Matthew's Women of Faith are, once again, hosting the reception following the Advent Carol Service on Sunday, November 29 (7pm) here at our Community Hall. As we have done in the past, we are asking any & all bakers here in the congregation willing to help make this event a roaring success to contribute any cookies, squares, desserts etc. you can. The theme of the reception this year is "Angels", so anything in that vein would be truly appreciated, but everything is welcome. You can drop off your contribution to the Community Hall that Sunday (Nov. 29) morning before or after the service, or before the concert that night. Please feel free to reach out to either Marjorie or Scott Kuschnereit with any questions, etc. The St. Matthew's Women of Faith sincerely thanks you for whatever you feel able to provide!

Community Cookie Walk Baking Request: The holiday season is here, and we're looking for Christmas cookie bakers of all kinds to lend their talents! Whether you're a seasoned baker or simply enjoy making festive treats, we'd love your help. Bring your favorite recipes, your baking skills, and your Christmas spirit as we come together to create something sweet for our community fundraisers. Let's fill the season with cookies, connection, and Christmas joy! If you can help me bake or if you would like to prepare your own cookies, please email Lana at *admin@featherandcross.org*.



Introducing a recipient of Martin Luther University College's Face to Faith Fund, which we supported with a 4-year grant from our property sale tithe: *A Journey of Faith, Learning, and Service.* Djomgoue Marie Tientcheu Epse Besong is an ordained pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (ELCC) and one of its first women ordained. She was the first woman to serve as a second pastor at the ELCC Central Cathedral (Millennium Parish). Her ministry

has shaped her commitment to justice and holistic care. Through the Lutheran World Federation and Tamar Campaign, she has supported food security, Indigenous empowerment, gender justice, and efforts against gender-based violence. As Coordinator of ELCC Hospital Chaplaincies and Social Welfare Services, she deepened her understanding of spirituality, suffering, and care. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy at Martin Luther University College, Canada. Her doctoral research explores clergy's lived experiences of understanding and responding to community mental health concerns in the Adamawa region of Cameroon. Using phenomenological and decolonial perspectives, it explores clergy understandings of mental health, their pastoral care practices, and the challenges they face amid limited formal services, poverty, trauma, stigma, and social instability. The study seeks to bring theological, cultural, indigenous, and psychosocial knowledge into dialogue, informing culturally responsive care and strengthening the church's role as a community of holistic healing and support. She expresses her heartfelt gratitude to the church and all whose generosity, prayers, and encouragement sustain her journey. This support goes beyond financial assistance; it represents faith, trust, and partnership in a service whose impact she hopes will extend to communities in Cameroon and beyond. It strengthens her perseverance and commitment to ensuring that the research contributes meaningfully to the well-being of others. She remains deeply grateful for the church's belief in her and her research. May God bless the church, its leadership, and every member, and may this shared investment become an instrument of His healing, love, and hope.

Church Fire Plan - For everyone's awareness, a copy of the Church Fire Plan for safe exit from the Sanctuary appears in the back of the worship books. Please take a moment to review for your own safety. The AED and a first aid kit are in the hallway by the office.

Upcoming Events at St. Matthews

November 22: During Worship announcements: an update on the Martin Luther University College's Face to Faith Fund, which we supported with a 4-year grant from our property sale tithe, with special guests Dean Daranne Harris and Marie, the scholarship recipient from Cameroon.

November 29: Children's Programming and Sharing During Worship from Marillac Place

November 29: Advent Carol Service at 7 pm

December 2: Advent Social

December 6: Children's Programming & Financial Town Hall

December 13: Pageant

December 24: German Christmas Eve Service at 5 pm

December 24: English Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 pm

December 25: Christmas Day Service at 9:30 am

December 31: New Year's Eve Service at 4:30 pm



Contact Information

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The St. Matthews Centre, our community hub, has a website which links all upcoming events.

Scroll down to “Upcoming Events” at www.stmatthewscentre.ca.

The St. Matthews Centre also has a Facebook page, which you can “follow” to get updates.

the ST. MATTHEWS CENTRE 54 BENTON

ST. MATTHEWS
presents

Advent Carol Service

To Thee All Angels Cry Aloud

featuring selections from

Handel's Dettingen Te Deum



Sunday, November 29, 2026 at 7 pm

Freewill Offering

ST. MATTHEWS CENTRE
54 BENTON
KITCHENER

St. Matthews Lutheran Church
54 Benton Street, Kitchener
stmattskw.com