



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY LITURGY

A Service of Word and Table | Year A



*Prepared by the Office of Spiritual Life
at United Theological Seminary*

— GATHERING —

**Indicates a posture of praise. Please rise in body or spirit as you are able.*

PRELUDE OR GATHERING SONG

Suggestions:

O How I Love Jesus, The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) 170

Majesty/He is Lord, UMH 176-177

House of the Lord (Phil Wickman)

Hallelujah, You're Worthy to be Praised (Judith McAllister)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (PSALM 100)

LEADER: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

ALL: Worship the LORD with gladness; Come into his presence with singing.

Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his;

we are his people; the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

**For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

*OPENING HYMN OR SONG(S)

Suggestions:

Crown Him with Many Crowns, UMH 327

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name, UMH 154

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, UMH 139

Lift High the Cross, UMH 159

Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know, UMH 163

All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine, UMH 166

For God So Loved (We The Kingdom)

All Hail King Jesus (Jeremy Riddle)

King of Kings (Hillsong United)

Christ Be Magnified (Cody Carnes)

In Christ Alone (Keith Getty and Stuart Townend)

A Thousand Hallelujahs (Brooke Ligertwood)

Praise Him! (Donnie Harper)

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Holy God—the One who was, who is, and who is to come—we lift up the name of Jesus in this house of worship today and declare him Lord over our lives. As we bring our sacrifice of praise, fill our hearts by the power of your Holy Spirit, with the grace to follow Jesus in the way of service and humility until he comes again to fully establish his Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. All glory and honor belongs to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

— HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD —

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

*LITANY OF CHRIST'S KINGSHIP

LEADER: We shout, "Hallelujah" and worship our God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit! One-in-three, three-in-one!

ALL: Hallelujah! Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.

Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever.

Amen! You are the Lord, there is no other!

The Lamb of God, Jesus, being in very nature God, who made us in his likeness did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage. Jesus made himself nothing, a humble servant, obedient to death, even death on a cross.

Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus Christ is Lord! All glory to you, Father!

In Christ, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

We are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that we may declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God;
once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
Hallelujah! Amen. Come, Holy Spirit! Build your Church!

Jesus Christ is the cornerstone; the firm foundation on which we stand!
Hallelujah! Amen. Come, Holy Spirit! Build your Church!

Baptized by water and filled with the Holy Spirit and fire,
the gates of hell will not overpower it!
Hallelujah! Amen. Come, Holy Spirit! Build your Church!

SONG, HYMN, OR SPECIAL MUSIC

Suggestions:

The Church's One Foundation, UMH 545

O Church of God, United, UMH 547

Build Your Church (Maverick City/Elevation Worship)

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:31-46

SERMON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In response to the Word you are invited to lay your praises and prayer requests at the throne of King Jesus, the one who sits at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. Through him all things were made and in him all things are held together. As different categories of prayer are raised you are invited to speak your requests during a moment of silence. When I say: Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus, please respond with: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

LEADER: Let us pray.

Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

Jesus, you are the Prince of Peace. We pray for our world, that violence may cease to the ends of the earth and nations will not study war anymore.

-silence for un/spoken prayer requests-

LEADER: Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

Jesus, you are the Wonderful Counselor. We pray for our nation. Guide our leaders with your holy wisdom so that peace, justice, and righteousness rule in our land for the good of all. *(Silence)*

LEADER: Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

Jesus, you are our Healer and Redeemer. We pray for those in our congregation and community that need your healing touch—physically, mentally, and spiritually. We especially lift up...*(insert names here before silence)*

LEADER: Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

Jesus, you are our Provider and the Bread of Life. We pray for the hungry, the naked, and those who are struggling to make ends meet. Fill them with good things and in your mercy do not send them away empty. Give us eyes to see and hearts of compassion to meet the needs of those around us. *(Silence)*

LEADER: Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

Jesus, you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We lift up those who are in prison, who are struggling with unemployment, and those who are suffering from addiction. Send your Holy Spirit to break chains of bondage and raise them up to new life in your Name. *(Silence)*

LEADER: Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

Jesus, you are King and Lord. We pray for ourselves today. Teach us to surrender any areas of our lives that are not fully yielded to your love and mercy. Reveal to us any sin, in thought, word, and deed, that does not align with your will and free us to serve you in joyful obedience. *(Silence)*

LEADER: Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus.

ALL: Your Kingdom come, your will be done.

We boldly ask all of these things in your name and pray as you taught us.
Our Father...

— FEASTING AT THE LORD'S TABLE —

OFFERTORY

Music Suggestions: Special Music, Instrumental, or Congregational Song

***DOXOLOGY (UMH 94)**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE (UMH 7)

**Note: This communion liturgy is based on the Service of Word and Table I in the United Methodist Hymnal. Feel free to edit for your context.*

CONFESSION AND PARDON

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Suggestion: The Great Thanksgiving for Advent (The United Methodist Book of Worship, pg. 54) or The Great Thanksgiving for Kingdomtide (pg. 70)

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Suggestions:

One Bread, One Body, UMH 620

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love (Peter Scholtes)

Soon and Very Soon, UMH 706

O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines, UMH 729, alt tune: GIFT OF LOVE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, UMH 298

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian, UMH 402

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior, UMH 351

I Surrender All, UMH 354

I Give Myself Away (William McDowell)

Forever (Kari Jobe)

Remember (Stephanie Gretzinger)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

— SENDING FORTH TO SERVE —

*CLOSING HYMN

Suggestions:

Jesu, Jesu, UMH 432

Here I Am, Lord, UMH 593

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore, UMH 344

Take My Life and Let it Be, UMH 399

Marching to Zion, UMH 733

God of Grace, and God of Glory, UMH 577

A Charge to Keep I Have, UMH 413

My Hope is Built, UMH 368

Canticle of the Turning (Rory Cooney)

Cornerstone (Hillsong Worship)

Build Your Kingdom Here (Rend Collective)

I Have Decided (Gretzinger, Leeland, Ingram, Moore)

***BENEDICTION (Ephesians 1:17-19)**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, 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, 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

Go in peace to love and serve in the way of Christ our King. Amen.

***GO IN PEACE**

© United Theological Seminary, 2023