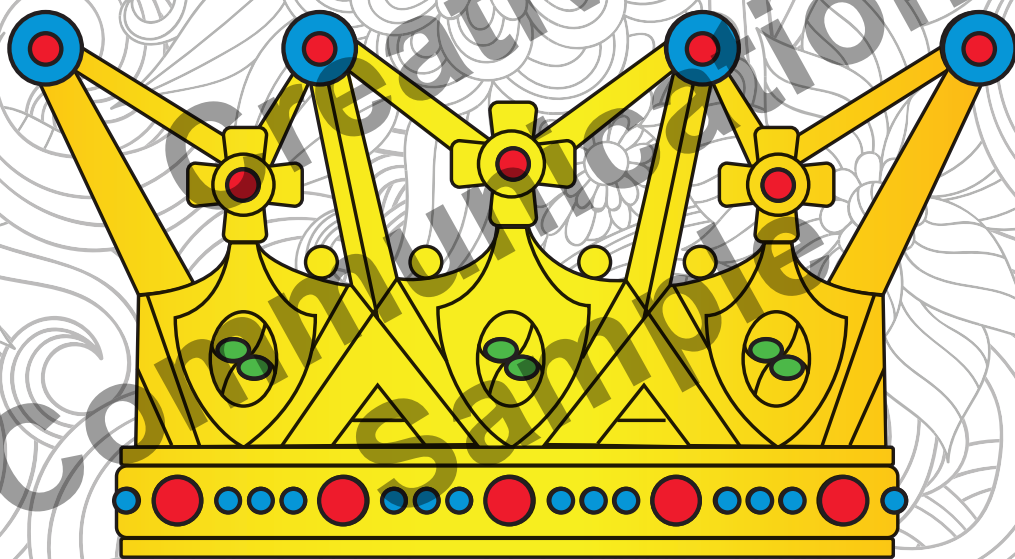


We are Children  
*of the* KING



A SERVICE *for* CHRIST *the* KING

LEADER'S GUIDE

# We are Children *of the* KING

## A SERVICE *for* CHRIST *the* KING

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## About the Service

By the grace of God and the working of the Holy Spirit, children of the King are destined to receive a rich inheritance ... even if those children appear to be sheep—especially if they appear to be sheep. This service is rich in hymnody, beginning with the melody of “How Great Thou Art” and ending with that of “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee.”

# We are Children *of the* KING

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## Newsletter/Bulletin Notices

### Newsletter Notice

Join us for a very special Christ the King service entitled “Children of the King.” By the grace of God and the working of the Holy Spirit, we are all children of the King and are destined to receive a rich inheritance ... even if those children appear to be sheep—especially if they appear to be sheep who are prone to wander their own way. The hymns, homily, prayers, and Scripture readings in this service remind us that even though we are wayward children, we are still gathered by our King, Jesus, around his throne to sing his praises forevermore for bringing us back to him.

### Bulletin Notice

Welcome to this very special Christ the King service entitled “Children of the King.” In this service we will come to see that by the grace of God and the working of the Holy Spirit, we are all children of the King and are destined to receive a rich inheritance ... even if those children appear to be sheep—especially if they appear to be sheep who are prone to wander their own way. Let the hymns, homily, prayers, and Scripture readings in this service remind us that even though we are wayward children, we are still gathered by our King, Jesus, around his throne to sing his praises forevermore for bringing us back to him.

# We are Children *of the* KING

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### Complete Script For Worship Leaders

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-vector/felt-pen-childlike-drawing-crown-vector-213615643>

- The **Gathering** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation with verses being sung by the congregation to the tune O Store Gud 11 10 11 10 and refrain:

Our Shepherd reigns! We hear him gently call us;  
We know his voice; he loves us each the same.  
Our Shepherd reigns! No evil can befall us.  
For he is here—he calls us each by name.  
Our Shepherd reigns! In pastures green he feeds;  
Within his flock his sheep are blest.  
Our Shepherd reigns! To waters still he leads;  
Within his flock we safely rest.

Our Shepherd reigns! With his own blood he bought us;  
For his dear sheep his life he gladly gave.  
Our Shepherd reigns! When we had strayed, he sought us,  
From ev'ry foe his precious lambs to save.  
Our Shepherd reigns! He wondrously provides:  
His righteous paths are safely trod.  
Our Shepherd reigns! Through valleys dark he guides,  
Comfort we find—his staff and rod.

**P** Oh, come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

**C** Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving. Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.

**P** For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**C** We are his people, and the sheep of his hand.

Our Shepherd reigns! A table he prepares us  
Where fearsome enemies can do no harm.  
Our Shepherd reigns, upon his shoulders bears us;  
We are protected by his mighty arm.  
Our Shepherd reigns, the King of kings alone!  
Let ev'ry creature bend the knee.  
Our Shepherd reigns! Come, gather 'round his throne  
To sing his praise eternally!

**P** Almighty God, you have crowned your Son as King and by him you will renew all creation. With Jesus as our Shepherd, unite the families of earth now torn apart, that all may be subjected to his gentle rule. He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

Our Shepherd reigns! His bounteous gifts bestowing,  
He is beside us all our journey through.  
Our Shepherd reigns! Our cup is overflowing;  
Goodness and mercy shall our paths pursue.  
Our Shepherd reigns! His wondrous mercy tell;  
His praise proclaim, his name adore.  
Our Shepherd reigns! Secure, we thus shall dwell  
Within his house forevermore.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 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. 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. 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 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 ... Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

- The **Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Diademata SMD:

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.

Crown him the King of love, whose majesty abounds,  
Whose throne, exalted there above, the heav'nly host surrounds.  
Let saints on earth draw nigh to join that blessèd throng  
And lift our ransomed voices high to sing salvation's song.

- The **Epistle Reading**, Ephesians 1:15-23, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 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. 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, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

- The **Children’s Message** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

*Needed: a king’s crown (perhaps one from Burger King)*

☐ Today we celebrate Christ the King Sunday. So I have a special hat to show you today. (*Show the crown to the children.*) What is this? (*Allow the children to respond.*) That’s right! It’s a crown. And who wears a crown like this? (*Allow the children to respond.*) That’s right. A king or a queen wears a crown. A king or queen is someone who rules over a country or a kingdom.

We don’t live in a country that has a king or a queen ruling over us, but we in the Church remember that we do have King who rules over us spiritually, and that is our King Jesus. He is the ruler of all other rulers both on earth and in heaven. He is the head of all of God’s kingdom. And God’s kingdom is wherever Jesus dwells and every place where the Father’s will is done.

Every kingdom has princes and princesses in it as well. You will be happy to know that each you, the children of God, are princes and princesses in God’s kingdom. That means that you have special duties to perform. We have the special privilege to pray to our King Jesus. We have the honor of coming into the house of our King Jesus here at church to worship, and we have the exciting role of being the "town criers," so to speak, in God’s kingdom. In our words and actions, we shout the people around us, "Hear ye! Hear ye! We have a King who has come to save us from our sins and take us to his mansions in heaven. His name is Jesus and he wants you to be a part of his kingdom."

Go out and live as the children of the King that you are. Spread the word that God’s kingdom is here and we have a great future in store for us when we all will be gathered around the throne of Christ on the Last Day as one big happy family. What a wonderful reunion that will be. Until that day, let us crown our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus, with our love as we live for him. Amen.

To help you remember what we learned here today, here is a coloring page of a King’s crown for you to take home and color as a way of praising Christ the King. (*Hand out coloring page on p. 42.*)



- The **Announcement of the Gospel** is sung by the congregation to the tune Antioch CM and refrain:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King,  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing ...

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy ...

- The **Gospel Reading**, Matthew 25:31-46, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ “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. 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, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 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; 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, 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.’ 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? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ 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.’ 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; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 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.’ 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?’ 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.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

- The **Gospel Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Antioch CM and refrain:

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love ...

- The **Homily** is delivered by the pastor:

Ⓟ How would you feel if ... I'm asking you to analyze your feelings here, how you would react to the situation I'm about to describe: How would you feel if you were in line to inherit a vast fortune? Like being included prominently in the will of someone like a Donald Trump or a Bill Gates or the ruler of an oil-rich sheikdom in the Middle East? Give yourself a moment to assess what that might be like, to be in line for a monumental inheritance.

And now the will is being read ... and it turns out that the entire fortune--the entire fortune--is being left ... to the cat!

Or maybe to a herd of sheep. That is closer to the fact, the point being made in this Christ the King celebration.

The fact is that Christ the King is fantastically rich. He is, after all, the Ruler of everything--“the C.E.O. of the Universe,” one theologian has rightly called him. He makes the wealthiest people on earth look like beggars by comparison ... because whatever is theirs is ultimately and eternally his. That is what we have gathered to celebrate this day.

The other fact is that you have already heard a preview of the reading of the will, and the Ruler of Everything, the C.E.O. of the Universe, has promised his vast fortune ... to sheep!

Which may strike you as terrible ... unless you happen to be one of them.

And you are. That is the point of today's Scriptures. In the Old Testament reading God himself offers to be a Shepherd ... more than that: promises to be a shepherd ... more than that: promises to be the Shepherd for his people. That makes you a sheep, then, doesn't it? — The psalm for the day includes the line “We are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.” — And in the Gospel: well, we heard it. Before the reading of the will, it says, the Son of Man will assume the role of a Shepherd; he will separate the sheep from the goats ... and in that story, you know what side you want to be on!

Jesus says the SHEEP are going to inherit what the King has to offer. Good thing you have been blessed to be among them! The Epistle reading for today assures you that you are among them, because the Holy Spirit (“a spirit of wisdom and revelation”) has made it possible for you to be one of God's believers, “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”—did you hear that—“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.”

What does that say? It says that you belong to Christ the King. As one of his sheep, you have come to know him as the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for you ... and was raised

Tune..... Hymn to Joy 87 87 D

Measures 1-5 of the piano accompaniment for 'Hymn to Joy'. The music is in G major (one sharp) and common time. The right hand features a steady eighth-note accompaniment, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Measures 6-10 of the piano accompaniment. The right hand continues with eighth notes, and the left hand uses a mix of chords and moving lines. A large watermark 'Creative Communications' is visible across the page.

Measures 11-15 of the piano accompaniment. The right hand has a more active melodic line with some accidentals, while the left hand remains primarily chordal. A large watermark 'Creative Communications' is visible across the page.

- The **Benediction** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation with verses of the closing hymn sung by the congregation to the tune Hymn to Joy 87 87 D:

“Come, you blessed of my Father,” says the King on judgment throne,  
Where all tribes on earth must gather, where the Shepherd’s sheep are known.  
“Hungry, I besought provision; parched, I sought my thirst to ease;  
Naked, lonely, sick, in prison, numbered with the least of these.”

**P** Beloved, we are God’s children now.

**C** What we will be has not yet been revealed.

**P** What we do know is this: when he is revealed we will be like him,

**C** for we shall see him as he is.

When the Son of Man in glory, whom the angel hosts surround,  
Comes again to tell this story, may we with his sheep be found.  
“Whensoe’er you cared for others, howsoe’er you came to see  
These, my sisters and my brothers, you have done it unto me!”