



**MAY THE FOURTH NIGHT PRAYER**  
**MAY 4, 2025**

## **Mission Statement**

*Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church is a welcoming and inclusive community nourished by Christ in vibrant worship and committed to God's mission of love and service especially to the oppressed and to the poor.*



## **Welcome Statement**

*Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here. Called by the Holy Spirit, we are committed to welcoming and celebrating all people, inclusive of culture, age, race or ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, or family structure. We are committed to the work of racial equity and justice within and through our community that we all may be transformed to be fully the body of Christ in our world. We invite you to worship with us, receive Christ's gift of Holy Communion with us, share your own story with us, and serve with us as we strive to live into God's universal embrace in Jesus Christ.*

Whether you are a new member or visiting for the first time, we welcome you to our spiritual home.

- If this is your first time with us, please stop by our information kiosk to learn more about our church community.
- During our worship service, children are invited to enjoy the PrayGround area. For families with infants, our nursery attendants are available to provide care. The nursery is accessible through the courtyard.
- Restrooms are conveniently located in the ministry building. From the nave, simply follow the cloister through the courtyard and enter the double doors; you will find the restrooms on your left.
- Please note that firearms are strictly prohibited within all Christ the King Church buildings and courtyard at all times.

We are delighted to have you join us and hope you have a meaningful experience with us.

**Cover:** *Local Artist*

## NIGHT PRAYER, COMPLINE

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, *beginning on page 320.*

### Gathering

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### PRELUDE

### STAR WARS THEME

*After the prelude, the assembly stands.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray:

**Most gracious and loving God, you who have swallowed up death with the resurrection of Christ Jesus, bring about in us new life with him.**

Pour your Holy Spirit upon us and give us hearts and minds fitting for your praise.

**Grant to us your continual help. Make us die every day to sin so that we may live with him forever.**

You give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal

**We ask these things in the name of your risen Son, he who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, both now, and forevermore.**

*Sit*

### NIGHT HYMN

### MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU

*The congregation is invited during the night hymn to come to the font to pray and light a candle to honor a loved one or to say a short prayer.*

*Stand*

## LITANY OF PRAISE FOR CREATION

*The leader invites the assembly to celebration of creation.*

Glory to you, O God:  
You speak a word of power,  
And so you create the world.  
We praise you, O God:  
**We praise you, O God.**

For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life,  
For the earth ordered from chaos,  
And for light and dark,  
we bless you, O God:  
**We bless you, O God.**

For cosmos beyond the earth,  
For the sky above our heads,  
And for the cycle of evening and morning,  
We exalt you, O God:  
**We exalt you, O God.**

For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers,  
For the land with its mountains and plains,  
And for the trees, the plants, and their fruits,  
We magnify you, O God:  
**We magnify you, O God.**

For the sun to rule the day,  
For the moon to brighten the night,  
And for the shining stars,  
we extol you, O God:  
**We extol you, O God.**

For the fish in the sea, for the bird of the air,  
For the monsters in the deep,  
We glorify you, O God:  
**We glorify you, O God.**

For wild animals and creatures of all kinds,  
For cattle and all livestock,  
And for everything that creeps on the earth.  
We adore you, O God:  
**We adore you, O God.**

For humankind made in your image,  
For setting us on your good earth,  
And for providing us food to eat,  
We worship you, O God.  
**We worship you, O God.**

Bless us, your creatures.  
Accept our praise through art, music, dance, and pop culture,  
And make us worthy of your marvelous creation.  
We praise you, O God.  
**We praise you, O God.**

## **PSALMODY**

God's Force is my strength.  
**God's Force has become my salvation.**  
There is a song of joy and victory in the tents of the righteous.  
**The right hand of the God has triumphed!**  
The right hand of the God is exalted! Because of the God's victory I will not die.  
**Instead I will live and proclaim what God has done.**  
Open to me the gates of the Temple.  
**I will go in and give thanks to the God.**  
I will give thanks to God, for he has answered me.  
**He has become my salvation.**  
The stone the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all.  
**God has done this. It is marvelous in our eyes.**  
This is the day of God's victory.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

(based on Psalm 118:14-24)

## Word

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*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

*Sit*

### First Reading

Isaiah 53:1-12

Who has believed our report?  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot,  
And like a root out of dry ground;  
He has no stately form or majesty  
That we would look at Him,  
Nor an appearance that we would take pleasure in Him.  
He was despised and abandoned by men,  
A man of great pain and familiar with sickness;  
And like one from whom people hide their faces,  
He was despised, and we had no regard for Him.

However, it was our sicknesses that He Himself bore,  
And our pains that He carried;  
Yet we ourselves assumed that He had been afflicted,  
Struck down by God, and humiliated.  
But He was pierced for our offenses,  
He was crushed for our wrongdoings;  
The punishment for our well-being was laid upon Him,  
And by His wounds we are healed.  
All of us, like sheep, have gone astray,  
Each of us has turned to his own way;  
But the Lord has caused the wrongdoing of us all  
To fall on Him.

He was oppressed and afflicted,  
Yet He did not open His mouth;  
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter,  
And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers,  
So He did not open His mouth.  
By oppression and judgment He was taken away;  
And as for His generation, who considered  
That He was cut off from the land of the living  
For the wrongdoing of my people, to whom the blow was due?  
And His grave was assigned with wicked men,  
Yet He was with a rich man in His death,  
Because He had done no violence,  
Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

But the Lord desired to crush Him, causing Him grief;  
If He renders Himself as a guilt offering,  
He will see His offspring,  
He will prolong His days,  
And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand.  
As a result of the anguish of His soul,  
He will see it and be satisfied;  
By His knowledge the Righteous One,  
My Servant, will justify the many,  
For He will bear their wrongdoings.  
Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great,  
And He will divide the plunder with the strong,  
Because He poured out His [m]life unto death,  
And was counted with wrongdoers;  
Yet He Himself bore the sin of many,  
And interceded for the wrongdoers.

Word of God, word of life.	or	The Word of the Lord.
<b>Thanks be to God.</b>		<b>Thanks be to God.</b>

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the Lord require of you

but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life.      or      The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Thanks be to God.**



## REFLECTION

*The silence may conclude with the following responsory.*

1 In - to your hands, O, Fa - ther— I com - mend my spir - it  
2 In ma - nus tu - as, Pa - ter, com - men - do spi - ri - tum me - um,  
3 With - in your hands I now rest O El - der, keeper of spire.

in - to your hands, O Fa - ther— I com - mend my spir - it.  
in ma - nus tu - as, Pa - ter, com - men - do spi - ri - tum me - um.  
en - trust my spir - it to you and guide me through the moons ris - ing.

## PRAYER STATIONS

*The assembly is invited to visit different prayer stations around the nave.*

**Station #1: Being Part of Something Bigger.** Who is your favorite Star Wars character and why? What are your gifts? What are you fighting for? How can you pray about and use your gifts? (*Location: Northwest column*)

**Station #2: An Elegant Weapon.** While Jedi's rely on a light saber, Christians lean into the Bible. How can we pray thru the Bible? (*Location: Northeast column*)

**Station #3: Sin is Real.** Even good people can sin or fail or make mistakes. Pray about a time you felt broken, and give it over to God. (*location: Columbarium window in south*)

**Station #4: Extraordinary Things Come from Unlikely Places.** Tatooine is a tiny place. Bethlehem is a tiny place. Yet, big things happen in those places. At the font, remember the time when you were tiny, and pray that God will do great things in you. (*Location: Baptismal Font*)

**Station #5: It's Never Too Late for Forgiveness.** We are all redeemed people of God! Take a time to thank God for being the light of the world.  
(Location: East middle column)

**Station #6: That's Rejecting. Rejection is part of life.** How did the people of Tatooine handle rejection? How can we give our hurts and rejections to God? Jesus says shake the sand off and move on.  
(Location: West middle column)

*stand*

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us turn to God with our hopes and prayers.

Creator and preserver of all,  
we intercede for people in every kind of need;  
make your ways known on earth,  
your saving health among all nations.

**May the Force be with us**

We intercede for the good fortune of the Church;  
guide and govern us by your Spirit,  
that all be led into the way of truth,  
and hold steadfast in the unity of spirit,  
in the bond of peace and in righteousness of life.

**May the Force be with us**

We commend to your will all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed,  
in mind, body or spirit; comfort and relieve them in their need,  
give them patience in their sufferings, and bring good out of all their afflictions. We lift our prayers to you now out loud or silently in our hearts... Help us to pay attention to you.

**May the Force be with us**

We remember those who have gone before us in Your peace, and we give you praise for all the faithful.

**May the Force be with us**

Inspire us to know you better and open our hearts to hear Your call.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*The Lord's Prayer is sung or spoken*

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

# CLOSING HYMN

# LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD

*As the lights are turned down, the congregation is invited to light their lightsabers.*



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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## BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Come, Living Force of Creation,  
Power of love, who envelopes all life with positive energy,  
Replace the tensions within us with righteous peace.  
Replace the fears within us with quiet confidence.  
Replace the bitterness within us with the sweetness of respect.  
Replace the coldness within us with a loving warmth.  
Enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills,  
Teach us to see Your design in all of creation.  
May the Force be with us always.

## POSTLUDE

## CANTINA BAND

*You are invited to remain seated and enjoy the postlude or  
depart quietly and greet our clergy in the narthex.*

Mission Offering

*House of Tiny Treasures*

*Earliest accounts of Christian worship testify to an offering following  
the Eucharist designated to the poor and the alien by those able to give out of  
gratitude to God and generosity in imitating Christ.*

*Christ the King Lutheran Church thanks you for your generous  
financial support. Offerings may be mailed to the church office,  
2353 Rice Blvd., Houston, TX 77005,  
or given online through our website, [www.ckelc.org](http://www.ckelc.org).*



*Snacks will be provided in the narthex.*

## Serving

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*God gives us gifts and talents so that we might serve.*

TBD .....Ushers  
Rachel McWhirter .....Digital Verger  
Ben Kerswell ..... Cantor  
Dcn. Ben Remmert ..... Preacher & Presiding Minister

*The People of Christ the King Church ..... Ministers*  
*The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hope-Tringali..... Senior Pastor*  
*The Rev. Sergio Rodriguez ..... Pastor of Parish Life*  
*Dcn. Ben Remmert .....Deacon of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry*  
*Dcn. Aimee Elles..... Director of Congregational Engagement*  
*Rachel McWhirter .....Director of Digital Ministry*  
*Kim Williams.....Director of Community Engagement*  
*Ben Kerswell.....Cantor*  
*Dcn. Rick Erickson..... Cantor Emeritus*  
*Martin Jones..... Music Associate*  
*Robert Walp ..... Director of the Brass Choir*  
*Vicki Gorman, Calvin Harris, Fernando Grimaldo.....Staff Singers*  
*Scott Summers.....Property Maintenance Technician*  
*Cheryl Gaspard.....Executive Administrator*  
*Maribel Haro ..... Administrative Assistant*  
*Herlinda Torres, Lena Zahlan.....Nursery Attendants*  
*Santiago Callejas, Arturo Ortega.....Custodians*

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*All scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.*

