



Reign > Safety

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

November 23, 2025



"Winning souls for Christ. Coaching Christians for life."

4651 Kernan Blvd S, Jacksonville, FL 32224 • (904) 642-8900

A Place to Call Home: Victory Lutheran

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus. We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Please sign the Connection Card inside the worship folder and return it in the basket on the worship table. Members, please update your contact info if there is a change.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both restrooms.

A Quiet Room for children who need a moment to get settled with a parent or guardian is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

Visit our website: www.victorylutheran.org or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



Worship Series Focus: Cause > Effect in God's Kingdom

"Every why hath a wherefore." That was Shakespeare's poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. And to navigate life well, it is vital we understand both. If you want to effect a healthy heart, you need to know the causes of heart disease. Before a major purchase causes you to go into debt, you need to think about the effect it will have on your budget. If you want the peace of being close to God, you need to know what causes that effect. Again, to navigate life well, it is vital we understand cause and effect.

We are nearing the end of the Church Year. This past year, we have reviewed Jesus' life and teaching. The Scripture readings in these final weeks recall some of the major themes that are woven throughout the Church Year. In this final series we will be looking at those themes with the understanding that "every why hath a wherefore." We conclude the year by talking about cause and effect in God's kingdom.

Today's Worship: Reign>Safety

Throughout the Church Year, we have seen a King unlike any other: not one who rules for self-exaltation but one who came to serve, to seek the lost, and to bear the shame of the cross. In his apparent defeat—crowned with thorns—Christ won the decisive victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil. Now, exalted at God's right hand, he rules for the sake of the redeemed.

The effect of that reign is perfect safety. Though our spiritual enemies rage and suffering continues in this life, nothing can undo the protection of Christ our King. His reign secures us through Word and sacrament and promises us a place in the paradise he has prepared for all believers.

Divine Service I

Our Path for Worship

Minister: My soul finds rest in God alone;

Congregation: My salvation comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation;

He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.

We worship today in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

CW511 | *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.

My salvation and my honor depend on God;

He is my mighty rock, my refuge.

Trust in him at all times, O people;

Pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, hear the word of Christ through his called servant: All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Gloria in Excelsis

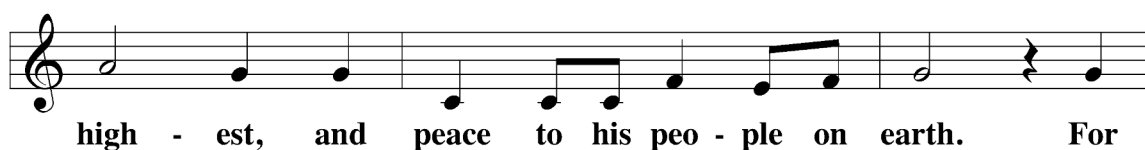
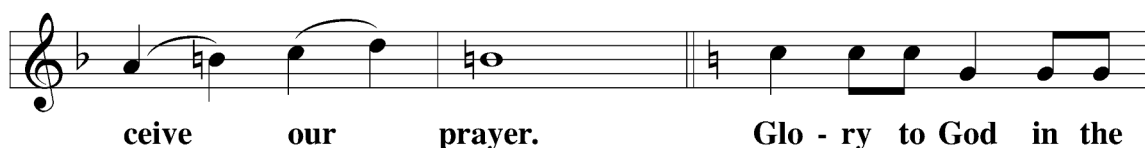
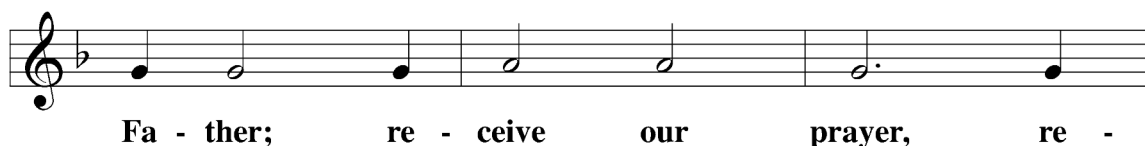
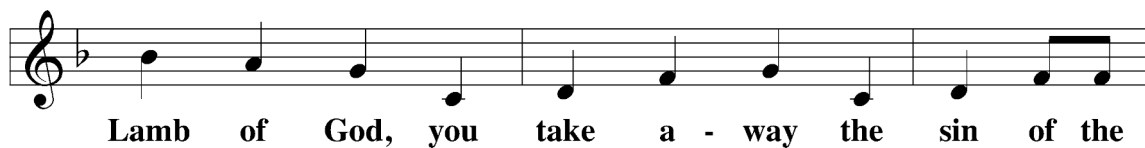
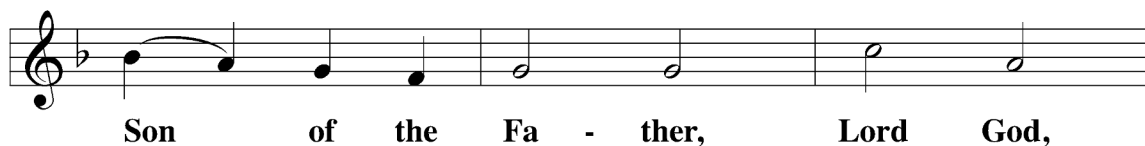
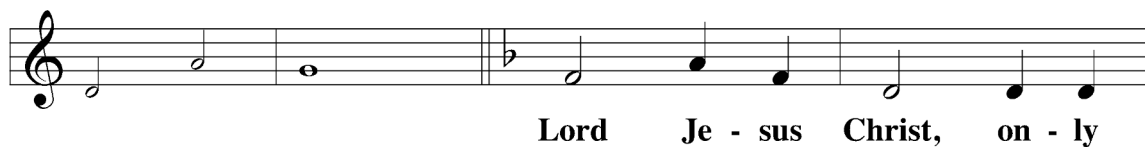
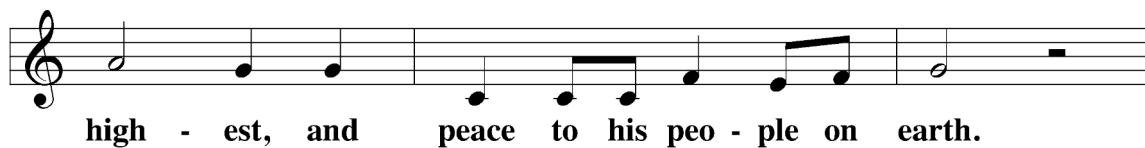
Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the



you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
 Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, by your victory, you have broken the power of the evil one. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim you King of kings and Lord of lords to your unending praise and glory;
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:1-6

God promised a righteous King who will rule his people in justice and safety

¹“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. ²Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the

shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD. ³“I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. ⁴I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.

⁵“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.
⁶In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.
This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 95 | The Rock of Our Salvation

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:13–20

Christ our King rescues us from darkness and reigns over all creation

¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE SENTENCES

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.

Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart
and wait for the LORD.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 23:35-43

From the cross, the true King grants mercy and the promise of paradise

³⁵The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “**He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.**”

³⁶The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷and said, “**If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.**”

³⁸There was a written notice above him, which read: This is the King of the Jews.

³⁹One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “**Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!**”

⁴⁰But the other criminal rebuked him. “**Don’t you fear God,**” he said, “**since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.**”

⁴²Then he said, “**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**”

⁴³Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children are invited to join Pastor at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If it would help the children would feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children ages 3–5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.



HYMN OF THE DAY

CW531 | *The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns*

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Follow the Ultimate Authority

Luke 23:35-43

CREATE IN ME A PURE HEART

Congregation

The musical score is written on six staves, each with a treble clef. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span multiple notes. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

THANK OFFERING

To show our thanks to God for his generosity toward us, we gather this thank offering, an act of worship (Romans 12:1), to support our Gospel-focused ministry in the Jacksonville area and beyond. See our website for other ways to support Victory's ministry and mission. If you want to give your thank offering online, you may use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.



Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Brief intercessory prayers may be added

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

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 and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

CW512 | *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*



Serving in Worship

Pastor

Accompanist

Rev. Jonathan Kolander

Mrs. Rachel Cochran

For reflection based on today's Scripture readings...

- 1st: How were the 'shepherds' misleading the people, and how are they still doing that? What does the Lord promise will take place, and how has that been carried out? How can we rightly refer to Jesus as the 'ultimate authority'? Read Isaiah 9.
- 2nd: Note all the ways our rescue at the hands of Jesus is described. What is the supreme takeaway from all those descriptions? What ways / teachings try to usurp the supremacy of Jesus in your life? Read 1 John 4.
- 3rd: What comfort did one of the criminals receive? How was Jesus being challenged by the onlookers? How is Jesus challenged in our day? Read Galatians 1:6–10.

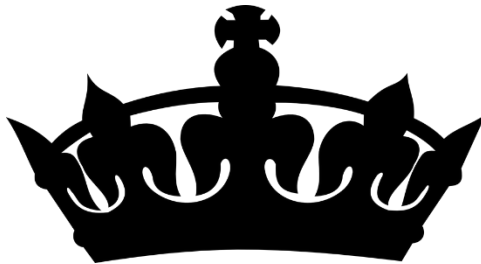
Acknowledgments

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Upcoming Events

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Saturday, December 13, 2025

Register Today!

Christmas is coming soon! Sign up your children ages 3–10 to celebrate Christmas with their friends here at Victory! Christmas for Kids will take place on Saturday, December 13th from 10am-12pm immediately following the Children's Christmas Service Rehearsal at 9:30am (Parents, this gives you 2.5 hours child-free!). It is a VBS-style program with a Bible lesson, snacks, games, and crafts for your children to enjoy! The program will end with a closing devotion at 11:45 that parents are welcome to attend. The cost is \$5/child, with a maximum of \$20/family. Please sign up your children via <https://forms.gle/YwAzJPXt4x25Pm538> or the QR Code to the right. Please register by Friday, December 5th. We can't wait to see you!



Volunteers Needed!

Adults and teens ages 11 and up are encouraged to sign up to help out as “shepherds” to help lead the younger children from station to station. We will make sure you get credit for service hours! Adults are needed to lead or co-lead the Bible lesson, snack, game, and craft stations. Please sign up via <https://forms.gle/4Z3mttzWgSAwkhWA9> or the QR Code to the left by December 1st.

Upcoming Service Themes

New Worship Series:

IMMINENT ARRIVAL



Nov. 26 *Thanksgiving Eve Worship:*
Thanksgiving Leads to Thanks-Living

Nov. 30 Imminent Arrival of the King

Dec. 3 *Advent Midweek Worship:*
Don't Take Christ out of Christmas

Dec. 7 Imminent Arrival of the Judge

Dec. 14 Imminent Arrival of Messiah

Dec. 21 Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel

ABOUT 'IMMINENT ARRIVAL':

Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. Did you make all the correct preparations? Will the person be happy to see you? When and how will the person arrive? Will there be any surprises?

During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. But in worship we realize that he impacts our lives when the Bible is read and when the sacraments are administered. Suddenly we feel the excitement of an imminent arrival.



MY WORSHIP NOTES



For children to use during worship.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

What is the name of the church season or special day today? _____

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue White Purple Red Green

The Sermon Text Was: _____

This is in the: ☐ Old Testament ☐ New Testament



What was the sermon about? _____



My favorite song today was:



Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

☐ Yes
☐ No



Communion?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?



Sunday Service Times

8:00am Worship

9:15am Bible Class and Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Livestream

Contact Information

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pastork@victorylutheran.org

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jmielke@victorylutheran.org

Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

