

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 30, 2025 11:00 a.m.

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 Sunday 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.
- Our Holy Communion elements are free of gluten and alcohol. You may choose to receive both the bread and cup, or either one: Christ is fully present in all.
- 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: *Return of the Prodigal Son*, drawing by graphic designer Brent Kastler, Greater Minneapolis-Saint Paul area, uploaded, April 12th, 2016.

The Season of Lent

The Church's 40 weekday season of Lent begins with the confession of sin on Ash Wednesday and concludes with both corporate and individual absolution (the announcement of forgiveness) on the Thursday before Easter Sunday called Maundy Thursday. Sundays are <u>in</u> Lent, not <u>of</u> Lent and share some, but not all, of the season's discipline and relative austerity. Lent is the second oldest liturgical season - only the 50-day (from Easter to Pentecost) celebration of Jesus' Resurrection is more ancient – and originally was meant to provide catechetical instruction for new converts in preparation for their baptism and welcome to communion at the Easter Vigil. These days, Lent offers us a structured opportunity to reflect on and take away aspects of our lives that hinder us from loving God and our neighbor with our whole heart, mind, and strength. Violet, the Church's ancient color for repentance (although brown is also in the tradition) is Lent's vestment color.

Lent is the most austere liturgical season. "Alleluia," an ecstatic song of praise, and other songs of praise such as "Glory to God in the highest" are neither spoken nor sung. On Transfiguration, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, this was symbolized as an "Alleluia" banner was ceremoniously "buried." This banner and other words of praise return to our worship life at the Easter Vigil.

Throughout this bulletin, we have included explanations for Lenten liturgical choices in *violet*.

HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Five, beginning on page 156.

Gathering

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

Pealing of the Bells

Prelude

Adagio from Sonata No. 1 in F Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

The organ prelude serves as an opportunity to center oneself before worship. We ask the congregation to refrain from conversation once the prelude begins.

Christians trust that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we are always forgiven whether we confess our sins or not. Lent's 40 weekdays are supposed to allow us time to reflect on those things which hinder faithful living and that time is reflected each Sunday in Lent as we confess our sin and hear these words: "God grant us time for amendment of life and the grace of the Holy Spirit." Lent's 40 days conclude with words of forgiveness spoken to all of us in the congregation and to each of us individually on Maundy Thursday.

stand

Confession

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. God grant us time for amendment of life and the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn 807

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



- 2 Here raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come"; I
- 3 Oh. grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be; to





streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise. hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at and home. that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to let thee.





hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love, While the sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God; Je - sus Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I





teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove. to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.



Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

In place of singing "Lord, have mercy," we are singing this hymn. The Hymn of Praise, "Glory to God" is omitted during Lent.



Music: Ukranian Orthodox Tradition

Prayers of the Day

The first Prayer of the Day is based on the themes of this Sunday. The second Prayer of the Day, from Ash Wednesday, is the theme for the season.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

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

sit

First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Word of God, word of life.

or The

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God.

Sung in alternation by verse



- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven, and whose sin is | put away!
- ² Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt, and in whose spirit there | is no guile!
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away, because of my groaning | all day long.
- ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.

 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;

when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble; you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.
- ⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go; I will guide you | with my eye.
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ Great are the tribulations | of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

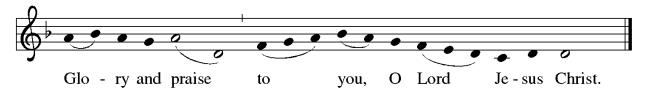
Word of God, word of life. or The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

stand

Gospel Acclamation

Notice that "Alleluia" is omitted here.



I will arise and go to my father and say, I have sinned against heaven and before you. *Luke 15:18*

The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son Whirl Story Bible, p. 322; Spark Story Bible, p. 378, Frolic Preschool Bible, p. 68

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

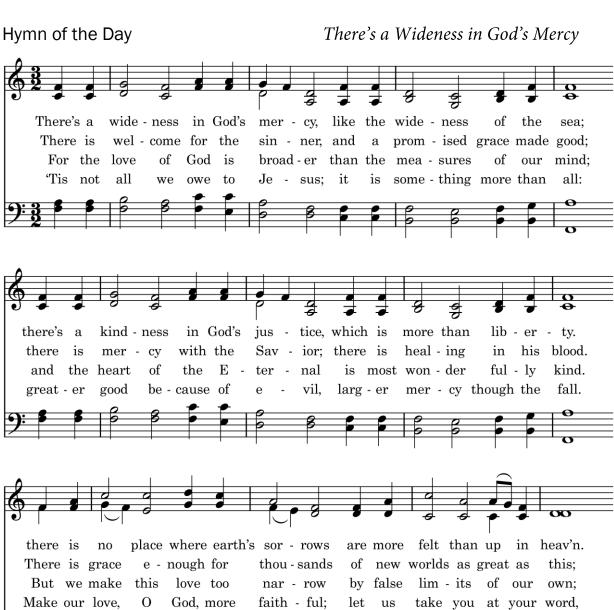
Praise to you, O Christ.

sit

Sermon

Silence

At the conclusion of the introduction, the assembly stands to sing the Hymn of the Day.







There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n. there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss. God will and we mag - ni - fy its strict-ness with a zeal own. not be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of and our lives will the Lord.



Baptism Anniversaries and Nicene Creed

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism as we rejoice with all who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Weldon Kuretsch, Margaret Dosch, John Lund, Wolfgang Schmidt, Pam Tett, Kristine Solberg, Marie Monroe, Gretchen Miertschin, LuAnne Novak, Larry Hamm, Craig Vollmers, Anita Bryant, Kelly DeVany, Scott Santana, Colin Eddington, Pamela Linberg, Keriann Haggadone, Alara Burgess, Marilyn Edwards, Scott Swanson, Alexandra Kieffer, Tristyn Henningsen, Chloe Henningsen, Bita Esmaeli, Malcolm Waddell, Julie Giam, Christian Eberhart:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Sit or kneel. Those in the Prayground are invited to light a tea light on the Prayground altar or color their prayers on the provided coloring sheets. These colored prayers will be collected during the offering.

In your steadfast love, O God, receive our prayer.

We join the whole church in commemorating: John Donne, poet, died 1631,

March 31; Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589, April 4.

stand

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say: Peace be with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

If you give through your bank or online, please place a reusable "Our Offering" card in the basket. These cards are located in front of you in the pew backs.

Motet:

How Lovely are the Messengers Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847)

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace!

To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,

throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

stand



Music: Marty Haugen; harm. Ben Kerswell Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

THOMAS

Offering Prayer

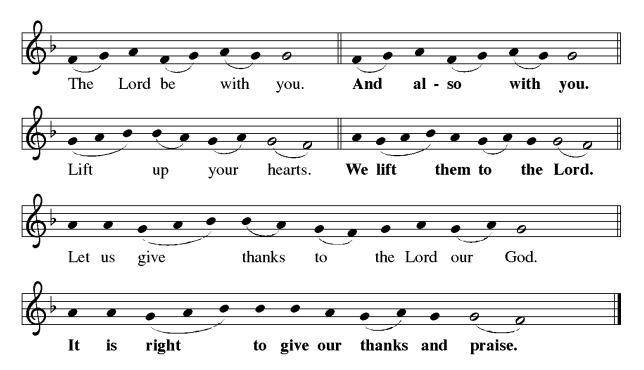
Let us pray:

Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

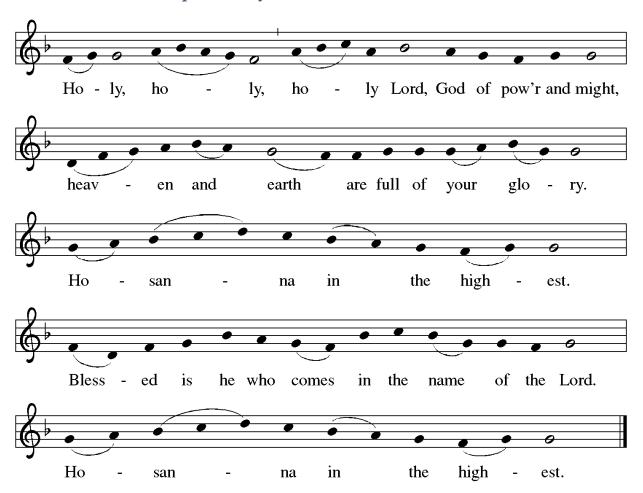
Great Thanksgiving



The "proper preface" said/chanted by the Presiding Minister changes with each season. This preface connects our 40 days of reflection to Christ's 40 days in the wilderness.



"Holy, holy" is a song of praise that has always been connected to Holy Communion and is seldom omitted. From Isaiah 6, this song reminds us that we are in the awesome presence of God.



This Prayer of Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer) builds on the times God's people have spent 40 days/years repenting and reflecting on their response to God's Promise. The "Words of Institution from 1 Corinthians, in which we are reminded of Jesus' own words at the last supper; a call for the Holy Spirit to work in us through the elements; and a three-part statement praising God (doxology) are always included in this prayer. Likewise, this prayer always concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

The presiding minister continues in thanksgiving and intercession.

O God, creator of our wilderness world,

O God, Savior of the lost.

O God, comforter of the sick and sorrowing. we give you thanks for your everlasting might; we glorify you for your covenant of compassion.

For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood.

For forty days, you illumined Moses with the words of your law.

For forty years, you fed your people in the wilderness with manna from heaven.

You became truly human in Jesus our brother.

For forty days, with fasting and prayer, he renounced the powers of evil.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit.

Make this food into manna for our journey, the body and blood of your Son.

Teach us your words of wisdom and justice.

Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace.

And, at the last, lead your pilgrim people through our deserts to your promised garden.

To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter, be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. Healing Prayer and Anointing may be received at the south window after communing.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to take an individual communion cup from the table at the corner of the pews and approach the altar rail from its corner. You may receive the sacrament or a blessing, kneeling or standing. Please return to the seats through the short center aisles where there are trays for used glasses. Children of all ages are invited to commune or receive a blessing. Our Holy Communion elements do not contain gluten or alcohol.

If you do not wish to commune, please come to the altar rail with other worshipers for a blessing.

sit Lamb of God Lamb of God, you take the sin of the a - way of God, world; have mer - cy Lamb you us. take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy Lamb of God, you take a - way on us. the sin of the world; grant peace. Α us men.



Text: Thomas Moore, 1779–1852, sts. 1-2; Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872, st. 3 Music: CONSOLATOR, Samuel Webbe Sr., 1740–1816



Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

stand

Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**



Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

Blessing

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
H bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Amazing Grace arr. Paul Fey (b. 1998)

You are invited to remain seated and enjoy the postlude or depart quietly and greet the pastors in the courtyard.

Pealing of the Bells

Mission Offering

Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)

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.

Month-to-date contributions are \$1,453.30.

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.ctkelc.org.



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Mary Koenig in memory of her mother Eleanor Meine MacDonald.

Snacks are provided by Janis Petner.

Donations benefit the ELCA World Hunger.

Flowers for the Nave in 2025

You are invited to sign up to provide the altar flowers for weekend services. To donate flowers in honor, memory of or thanksgiving for someone, you will find available dates listed by scanning the QR Code, https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BABA92FA1FCC61-53410172-2025, or you may email your preferred date to Cheryl at cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org. Flower arrangements are \$70 per Sunday. Checks can be made out to Christ the King Lutheran Church with "Altar Flowers" in the memo line or submit an online payment at www.ctkelc.org. Available dates are July 13, July 20, and Nov 23.

Snacks Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to provide snacks after worship for:

- April 13 at 11 a.m.
- April 20 at 11 a.m.
- April 27 at 8:30 a.m.

You can sign up by scanning the QR Code. Plan to provide snacks for 30 people. All monetary donations received at the snack table will benefit ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for signing up!



Serving

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

	Head Usher
Logan Faron	Usher
Tate Williams	Bellringer
Anneliese Williams	Acolyte
Maureen Sahualla, The Rev. George Brookover	Anointers
Ben Kerswell	Cantor
Martin Jones	Music Associate
Rachel McWhirter, Mark Lichetenberger	Digital Vergers
Anne Clutterbuck	Crucifer
Rustin Buck	Server
Trish Chapman	Server
Sabina Entzian	Assisting Minister
The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hope-Tringali	Presiding Minister
Dcn. Ben Remmert	Preacher

Members of the Altar Guild:

Jill Bailer, Bette Bowers, Anita Bryant, Kellye Burke, Carole Derr, Reinetta Hansen, Maureen Lamson, Gaelyn Lesher, Liz Lloyd, Linda Marx, Peggy Mathis, Jacquelyn McAnelly, Marie Monroe, Mary Jane Orsburn, Jan Petner, Eleanor Verret, and Nyla Woods. Members bake bread and order flowers, deliver flowers to church members, rotate paraments, arrange the communion ware, and generally prepare the nave for worship. Contact Janis Petner, jhpet1@gmail.com, for more information.

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 RemmertDeacon of Childr	en, Youth, and Family Ministry
Dcn. Aimee Elles Director	of Congregational Engagement
Rachel McWhirter	Director of Digital Ministry
Kim WilliamsDirec	ctor 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 Grimo	aldoStaff Singers
Scott SummersPr	operty Maintenance Technician
Cheryl Gaspard	Executive Administrator
Maribel Haro	Administrative Assistant
Herlinda Torres, Lena Zahlan	Nursery Attendants
Santiago Callejas, Arturo Ortega	Custodians

Rice Village Campus: 2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston, TX 77005-2696

Memorial Campus: 12211 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024

Email: ctk@ctkelc.org Website: ctkelc.org Telephone: 713-523-2864

Service music reprinted from *Evangelical Book of Worship*, copyright © 2006 Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 6133-L. March 26, 2025

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

