



Thursday, November 20, 2025
Christ the King

First English Lutheran Church
402 N. 3rd Ave., Wausau, Wisconsin 54401-4448
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<https://www.firstenglishlutheranwausau.org>

A Congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor: Reverend Mary E. Zupansic
Minister of Music: Daniel Larson
Pianist: Hal Osborn
Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship.

If you are a visitor, please fill out the neon green Visitor Card and drop and give it to an usher or greeter. Please come to worship with us again!

**Worship Leader: Pastor Mary E. Zupansic
Pianist: Hal Osborn Lector: Barry Levine**

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

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. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Come, Thou Almighty King

ELW #408



- 1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy name to sing;
- 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, mer - ci - ful, might - y Lord;
- 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear
- 4 To thee, great One in Three, e - ter - nal prais - es be



help us to praise; Fa - ther all - glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic -
our prayer at - tend. Come and thy peo - ple bless, and give thy
in this glad hour! Thou who al - might - y art, rule now in
hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign maj - es - ty may we in



to - ri - ous, come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
word suc - cess, and let thy righ - teous - ness on us de - scend.
ev - 'ry heart, nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.
glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Text: source unknown, c. 1757, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through 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.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from Jeremiah

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they

shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 46

¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;
God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20

A reading from Colossians

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?” ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The gospel of the Lord.

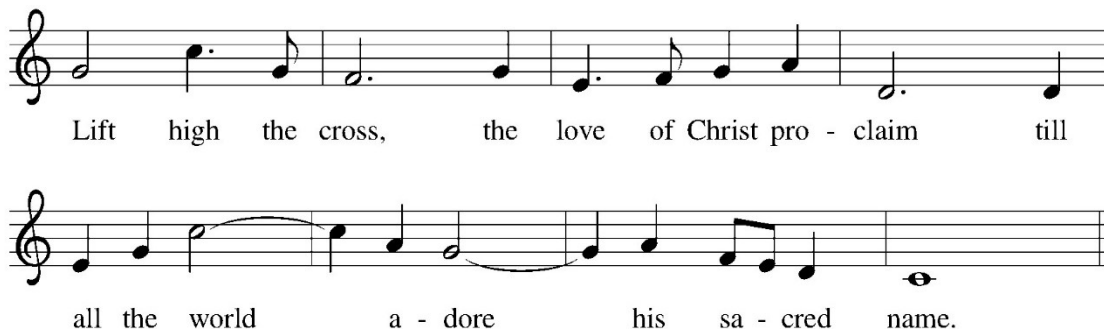
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mary E. Zupansic

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lift High the Cross*

ELW #660





1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was
 conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was
 buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and
 he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the
 holy catholic church, the
 communion of saints, the
 forgiveness of sins, the
 resurrection of the body, and
 the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Each petition ends with the following response.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

...We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest,

we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,

but on you, who richly provides for us.

Multiply what we have gathered

to bless all who are suffering and in need,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION: Instrumental Interlude

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of field and flower, wheat and grape,
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven
that gives life to the world.

Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who
hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love
and serve in Christ's name.

Amen.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW #434



- 1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
- 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
- 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
- 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
- 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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PASTORAL CARE

If you would like a visit from Pastor Mary, or if you have a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor on her cell phone 920-671-4338.

NEW OFFICE EMAILS

Pastor Mary: pastor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org

Deb: parishadmin@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org

These are now working emails. Please send all correspondence to these addresses.

NEW MEMBERS GATHERING

If you have been worshipping with us at First English for a while, we invite you to become a new member / disciple! A 'New Member Gathering' is scheduled for Sunday, December 7th following the 9 a.m. worship service. Join us for a time to get to know each other, meet some of our leadership at First English, and learn about ministry opportunities. Please let Pastor Mary know that you are interested!

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Thursday, November 13: 20 Sunday, November 16: 108

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE Sunday, November 16: 10

POINSETTIAS

We will again grace the chancel and altar area with poinsettias for our Christmas services. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia(s), there are forms in the narthex and the church office. The price is \$10.00 per plant. **Orders must be in by Wednesday, December 10.**

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

Our annual Advent Hunger Offering will be received during the month of December. The need for such an offering remains so important.

The special Hunger Appeal offering envelopes are available on the narthex tables. Let your gratitude and love flow freely during this season of giving with an extra gift to ELCA World Hunger. You may place your gifts in the offering plate on Sunday morning or Thursday evening. Thank you for caring and sharing!

COMMITTEE NIGHT

Our next committee night will be Tuesday, December 2, 6:30 p.m. We'll gather in Fellowship Hall.

YOUTUBE

First English has a new temporary YouTube channel. This affects the live-streaming of our Sunday and special worship. So temporarily...in order to view our services through live-streaming, here's what you do: Go to the **YouTube Channel**. In the search space, put **firstenglishhwausau**. Then click on **First English Lutheran Church**. If you have any questions, feel free to call the office.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

The Thanksgiving Eve worship service will be held at Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 26, at 6:30 p.m.

The service will feature a combined bell choir anthem, as well as a combined choral anthem. We will collect nonperishable food items for The Neighbors' Place.

For those members of First English who wish to sing in the combined choir, you can attend rehearsals at Saint

Andrews (Wednesday nights, 6:30-7:30 p.m. OR at Good Shepherd Lutheran (Wednesday nights, 7:00-8:00pm). Rehearsals will run through November.



TREASURE SALE NEWS...

Items for next year's Treasure Sale are coming in on a regular basis. We are accepting clean clothes in good condition, housewares, collectibles, books, linens, DVDs, CDs, and more. If donating linens, please mark them with what size they are. This is very helpful.

We will accept small appliances in working condition, and furniture.

Your donations can be brought downstairs in the hallway by the Sunday School rooms. There is a sign on the door. Thank you so much for your donations!

Saint Andrew's is located at 150202 County Rd NN in Wausau.

THE MITTEN TREE

is filling up nicely with your gifts of scarves, mittens and hats for needy children and adults in the Wausau area. All sizes are needed: children's and adult men and women. Simply bring them to the church and hang them on the tree. Donations will be distributed right after Thanksgiving. The deadline for bringing your items is Sunday, November 23. Thank you for your gifts!

PEEK AT THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23-30, 2025

Sunday, Nov. 23:	9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday, Nov. 25:	9:00 a.m. Quilting 11:00 a.m. Book Club 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir
Wednesday, Nov. 26:	6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Saint Andrew's
Thursday, Nov. 27:	<i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i> No worship at First English. Church Offices Closed
Friday, Nov. 28:	6:30 p.m. NA Meeting
Sunday, Nov. 30:	9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School

LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

John Otto

Karl Otto

Roger Thorpe

Judy Beemer (*sister of Roger DeWitt*)

Ron Wiese (*friend of the DeWitt family*)

John (*family of Klapperich and Wynn*)

John & Pat Alters (*parents of John & Mike*)

Diane (*Aunt to Angela Greenfield & Jarek Nelson*)

Heidi Olson (*daughter of Duane & Darlene Chapman*)

Janet Alters (*Family member of Mike & Joan, Jack & Kim, Erin, Spencer and Ella*)

Linda Kittel

Tracey (*friend of Sheri Fochs*)

Josh (*friend of Matt & Lori Heyne*)

Homebound / Assisted Lived: Kathie Peterson (*Primrose*), Dolores Hintz (*Sylvan Crossings*), Sue McKee (*Rennes in Weston*), Diane Zuelke (*Mountain Terrace*), Michelle Detert (*Cady Home*), Ila Barttelt (*Rennes*), Joyce Utecht (*Rennes*), Gary Klingbeil (*Wood Aven*), Rick Petzke (*Crossroads Care Center in Weyauwega*)
Dennis & Laurayne Nicoliasen (*Rennes*)
Geraldine Hopperdietzel
Audrey Fellbaum
Delphine Saeger

Daily Prayers Offered for: Bishops Anne Edison-Albright (*East Central Synod*) and Yehiel Curry (*Presiding Bishop of the ELCA*), and all those who work in the East Central Synod Office; ShyAnn and Peter Egwalata (*in Uganda*)

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Clement was the third bishop of Rome. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul's letters to them. As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.

Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, died 1927

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Pro grew up in a time when the Mexican revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the wealthy. He became a Jesuit priest and worked on behalf of the poor and homeless. Falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a government official, he was executed, but not before crying out "Long live Christ the King!"

Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.