

Worship Resources for Eradicating Systemic Poverty Sunday

Christ the King / Reign of Christ (November 20–26)

“At the conclusion of the Christian year, we celebrate the sovereignty of the God who is known to us in Jesus Christ. On this day, as on every day, we give honor and glory to the Lord of heaven and earth and watch and pray for the coming of God’s realm of righteousness, justice, and peace. Above all earthly powers, the crucified and risen Lord alone claims our adoration and allegiance. We proclaim that Jesus Christ is first and last, beginning and end, Alpha and Omega.” — Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 2018), 394

Included in these resources:

- Liturgy for Year A (2023, 2026, 2029, 2032)
- Liturgy for Year B (2024, 2027, 2030, 2033)
- Liturgy for Year C (2025, 2028, 2031, 2034)
- Suggested Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs

Given the common theological themes and biblical images among the readings and resources for Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday, worship planners may wish to draw from other years in the cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary.

Liturgy for Year A

Revised Common Lectionary Readings (Year A)

SEMICONTINUOUS	COMPLEMENTARY
Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24	Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
Psalms 100	Psalms 95:1–7a
Ephesians 1:15–23	Ephesians 1:15–23
Matthew 25:31–46	Matthew 25:31–46

OPENING SENTENCES

For thus says the Lord God:

I myself will search for my sheep.

**I will rescue them from all the places
where they have been scattered.**

I will feed them with good pasture;
there they shall lie down and rest.

**I myself will be their shepherd,
says the Lord God.**

I will seek the lost, bring back the strayed,
bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak.

**But the proud and the strong I will destroy.
I will feed them with justice.**

Ezek. 34 (excerpts)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of justice and mercy,
you call us to love and serve our neighbors—
people who are hungry and thirsty,
people who are strangers and naked,
people who are sick and in prison.
Help us to recognize the face of Jesus
in the faces of our neighbors in need,
that we may be ready to welcome your realm
at the coming of Christ our Savior,
in whose holy name we pray. **Amen.**

See Matt. 25

CONFESSION AND PARDON

The confession and pardon may be led from the baptismal font.

Know that the Lord is God.

The Lord made us, and we belong to God.

We are God's people,
the sheep of God's pasture.

See Ps. 100, Ezek. 34

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**God our shepherd, we confess
that we have not followed you faithfully.**

**You gather up the lost and least
while we scatter the poor to the margins.
You claim them as beloved people
while we hide from neighbors in need.
You strengthen those who are weak
while we neglect the most vulnerable.**

Forgive us, God of grace.

**Lead us in right paths
and restore us to your flock and fold
where love and justice reign;
through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

The Lord is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever,
and God's faithfulness to all generations.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The prayer for illumination is led from the lectern or pulpit.

God of glory, enlighten our hearts.
Reveal your holy Word to us
by the power of your Spirit,
that we may trust in your promises
and share your abundant grace with all;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

See Eph. 1

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.

A Brief Statement of Faith (excerpt), Book of Confessions, 11.2

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,

forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

The invitation to discipleship may be led from the baptismal font.

Jesus comes to us as a stranger—
one who is hungry or thirsty,
one who is outcast or vulnerable,
one who is sick or in prison.

See Matt. 25

Will we recognize him when he comes?
Will we welcome him into our hearts?

You are invited to join this community of disciples
as we seek to serve Christ among our neighbors.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers of intercession may be led from the midst of the congregation.

Lord Jesus Christ,
with outstretched arms
you gather all who are in need
and hold them in your healing heart.

See Matt. 25

Hear us as we pray:
Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For those who are hungry ...
fill them with your abundance.
Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For those who are thirsty ...
pour out your grace.
Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For those who are strangers ...
welcome them as your beloved.
Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For those who are naked ...
wrap them in your compassion.
Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For those who are sick ...
sustain them with your strength.
Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

For those who are in prison ...
set them free to sing your praise.
Your kingdom come, **your will be done.**

Lord Jesus Christ,
open our hearts and strengthen our hands,
that we may love and serve one another
as we watch for your coming realm;
in your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

The invitation to offering may be led from the Communion table.

We have a glorious inheritance among the saints
through the generosity and grace of God.

See Eph. 1

Let us share this great abundance with others,
sharing our gifts with those in need
and offering our lives in Christ's service.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The prayer of thanksgiving may be led from the Communion table.

We give you thanks, O God,
that you are at work among us—
lifting up those who are poor,
casting down the power of evil,
and raising the dead to life.
Strengthen us in faith,
that we may rejoice in hope
and live to share your love;
through Christ, who is all in all. **Amen.**

See Eph. 1

BLESSING AND CHARGE

The blessing and charge may be led from the doors of the church.

May the goodness and mercy of God
follow you all the days of your life,

See Ps. 23, Matt. 25

and may you dwell
in the house of the Lord forever. **Alleluia!**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
seeking the presence of Christ
among our neighbors in need. **Amen.**

Liturgy for Year B

Revised Common Lectionary Readings (Year B)

SEMICONTINUOUS	COMPLEMENTARY
2 Samuel 23:1–7	Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14
Psalm 132:1–12 (13–18)	Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b–8	Revelation 1:4b–8
John 18:33–37	John 18:33–37

OPENING SENTENCES

O Lord, remember the hardships of David:
how he swore, “I will not enter into my house
until I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

Ps. 132 (excerpts)

**Rise up, O Lord, and go to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.**

The Lord swore a sure oath to David,
from which God will not turn back.

“This is my resting place forever,” says the Lord.

“Here I will reside, for I have desired it.

I will abundantly bless its provisions;

I will satisfy with bread those who are poor.”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God,
your kingdom is not of this world.
You sent Jesus into this world
to proclaim the coming of your holy realm
of justice, equality, and dignity for all.
Strengthen us to serve you,
bringing good news to people who are poor
and liberty to those who are oppressed,
until your will is done on earth as in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

See John 18

CONFESSION AND PARDON

The confession and pardon may be led from the baptismal font.

Grace and peace to you from the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come,
and from Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
who loves us and sets us free from sin.

See Rev. 1, Luke 1

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**Holy and eternal one, God of all mercy and might,
we confess that we have not been faithful servants
in your realm of righteousness, justice, and peace.**

**You scatter the proud in the thoughts of their hearts
while we cling to prejudice and privilege.**

**You bring down the powerful from their thrones
while we perpetuate patterns of oppression.**

**You fill the hungry with good things
while we turn away neighbors in need.**

Forgive us, God of grace.

**Set us free from our captivity and corruption,
strengthen us to seek your will in the world,
and teach us to worship and serve you alone;
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior.**

Grace and peace to you from the Lord God,
who is and who was and who is to come.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The prayer for illumination is led from the lectern or pulpit.

O Lord our God,
guide us by your Word and Spirit,
that we may listen to your voice
and testify to the truth
of good news for all;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

See John 18

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.

A Brief Statement of Faith (excerpt), Book of Confessions, 11.2

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,

forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

The invitation to discipleship may be led from the baptismal font.

Jesus reigns over all the rulers of the earth,
and he calls us to be his holy people—
breaking down dividing walls of hostility
and building up communities of justice and peace.

See Rev. 1, John 18

Will you listen to his voice? Will you answer his call?
Come and join us in joyful service to the Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers of intercession may be led from the midst of the congregation.

As children of the covenant,
we lift up our voices to the Lord,
offering our prayers of intercession.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

See 2 Sam. 23

For the church ...
that it may be a sanctuary for people in need
and a signpost on the path of justice.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the world ...
that leaders may seek the common good
and people may live in true community.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For creation ...
that the earth may be spared from destruction
and its gifts may be used with wisdom and equity.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For our neighbors ...
that the most vulnerable may have fair access
to good food, housing, and healthcare.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For loved ones ...
that the sick may find relief from suffering
and the sorrowful be comforted.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord our God,
remember your covenant with us
and your great love for all the world.
Transform these prayers into action
that all creatures may prosper
and praise your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

The invitation to offering may be led from the Communion table.

Remember the generosity of the Lord Jesus Christ,
who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor.

See 2 Cor. 8

Therefore, God has called us to seek a fair balance
between abundance and need, in order that
“The one who has much does not have too much,
and the one who has little does not have too little.”

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The prayer of thanksgiving may be led from the Communion table.

Ancient and eternal God,
we give you thanks and praise
for your creative purpose,
your redeeming work,
and your unending love.
Receive the offering of our lives.
Use us and use these gifts
to establish your everlasting reign—
a new creation of abundant life for all
that shall never be destroyed.
All honor and glory are yours,

See Dan. 7

now and always;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING AND CHARGE

The blessing and charge may be led from the doors of the church.

The blessing of the Lord God,
the Alpha and the Omega,
be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

See Rev. 1

Go in peace, doing justice
in the name of the Lord our God. **Amen.**

Liturgy for Year C

Revised Common Lectionary Readings: Year C

SEMICONTINUOUS	COMPLEMENTARY
Jeremiah 23:1–6	Jeremiah 23:1–6
Luke 1:68–79	Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11–20	Colossians 1:11–20
Luke 23:33–43	Luke 23:33–43

OPENING SENTENCES

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

Ps. 46 (excerpts)

There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
**God is in the midst of the city;
it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, through Jesus Christ
you showed your love and favor
for people who are mocked and scorned,
condemned and derided,
abused and oppressed,
and given up for dead.
Strengthen us to stand with them,
to speak out against injustice,
and to serve all who are in need,
that we may rejoice together
when Jesus comes into his kingdom.
This we pray in his holy name. **Amen.**

See Luke 23

CONFESSION AND PARDON

The confession and pardon may be led from the baptismal font.

The Lord God has rescued us from the realm of evil,
and has delivered us into the kingdom of Christ,
in whom we have redemption: the forgiveness of sins.

See Col. 1, Jer. 23, Luke 23

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

**Loving God,
we confess that we have failed
in our love for one another.**

**You are a shepherd to those who are poor,
but we pass by people in need.
You are faithful in keeping your promises,
but we forget our calling to service.
You show mercy to those who are condemned,
but we offer judgment and scorn.**

Forgive us, God of grace.

**Teach us to do justice,
fill our hearts with kindness,
and lead us in humble service;
through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

In Christ the fullness of God was pleased to dwell
and through Christ, God calls us to be reconciled.

I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The prayer for illumination is led from the lectern or pulpit.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,
for you look with favor upon your people.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
help us to heed the voices of the prophets
and prepare the way for your coming realm
of righteousness, justice, and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

See Luke 1

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We trust in Jesus Christ,
fully human, fully God.

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preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

The invitation to discipleship may be led from the baptismal font.

Hear the promise of the Lord:
“I myself will gather the remnant of the flock.
I will raise up shepherds over them,
and they shall not fear any longer.”

See Jer. 23

Fear not, people of God.
The Lord is our righteousness,
and the Lord is waiting to welcome us home.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers of intercession may be led from the midst of the congregation.

Good Shepherd,
you have claimed us as your flock,
and still you go out searching
for those who are lost, lonely,
and longing for redemption.
Jesus, remember us
when you come into your kingdom.

See Jer. 23, Ps. 46, Col. 1, Luke 1, Luke 23

We pray for the church ...
Help us to be a community of welcome
for those who are in need.
Jesus, remember us
when you come into your kingdom.

We pray for the world ...
Bring justice and reconciliation
through the love of the cross.

Jesus, remember us
when you come into your kingdom.

We pray for creation ...
Heal the earth by the grace of Christ,
in whom all things hold together.
Jesus, remember us
when you come into your kingdom.

We pray for our neighbors ...
Be a refuge to those in need
and help them in times of trouble.
Jesus, remember us
when you come into your kingdom.

We pray for loved ones ...
Surround them with tender mercy
and lead them in the path of peace.
Jesus, remember us
when you come into your kingdom.

Good Shepherd,
guide us in our prayer and in our practice,
that our lives may proclaim
your way of abundant life for all.
This we pray in your holy name. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

The invitation to offering may be led from the Communion table.

Our Lord and Shepherd has promised
to gather up the scattered flock—
welcoming the outcast,
caring for the vulnerable,
and feeding the hungry.

See Jer. 23

Let us join in God's saving work,
doing justice and seeking righteousness.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The prayer of thanksgiving may be led from the Communion table.

Holy God, we give you thanks
that you have enabled us to share
in the inheritance of your saints in light.
Receive the offering of our lives.

See Col. 1

Use our lives and our gifts
to accomplish your saving work
of redemption and reconciliation,
that all may know the abundant life
of Jesus Christ our Lord,
in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING AND CHARGE

The blessing and charge may be led from the doors of the church.

The tender mercy of our God,
the guiding light of the Holy Spirit,
and the deep peace of the risen Lord
be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

See Luke 1

Go in peace, doing justice
in the name of the Lord our God. **Amen.**

Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs

All suggestions are from Glory to God (GTG): The Presbyterian Hymnal (WJKP, 2013); cross-references to the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal (PH), if applicable, are provided.

All Hail to God's Anointed	GTG 149, PH 205
Arise, Your Light Is Come!	GTG 744, PH 411
For the Troubles and the Sufferings	GTG 764
God of Grace and God of Glory	GTG 307, PH 420
Heaven Shall Not Wait	GTG 773
In an Age of Twisted Values	GTG 345
Live into Hope	GTG 772, PH 332
My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout	GTG 100
My Soul Gives Glory to My God	GTG 99, PH 600
O for a World	GTG 372, PH 386
O Holy City, Seen of John	GTG 374, PH 453
Sound a Mystic Bamboo Song	GTG 323
Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples	GTG 757, PH 434
The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound	GTG 766
The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor	GTG 763
The Right Hand of God	GTG 332
The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing	GTG 505
When All Is Ended	GTG 376
When the Poor Ones	GTG 762, PH 407
Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life	GTG 343, PH 408
Why Stand So Far Away, My God?	GTG 786