



# CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, December 11, 2016

"...taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ..."



CHRIST  
-THE KING-

— ORDER OF WORSHIP —

*Thank you for joining us this morning! At Christ the King, our worship is a divine-human dialogue, in accordance with Scriptural example and precedent, alternatively hearing God's Word and responding in prayer, song, or meditation. The gray boxes throughout the bulletin were written to aid each worshipper in thoughtful and meaningful participation in this dialogue. Please prepare your heart by reading through the bulletin, praying for those leading and worshipping around you, and silencing all communication devices.*

*We encourage parents to involve children as soon as possible in the worship service. In consideration of other worshippers, we request parents with children not yet ready for unobtrusive participation in worship to utilize the nursery or, if necessary, the cry room. A nursery is available for children ages 3 months to 3 years during all Sunday morning activities.*

*\* Indicates that the congregation stands during this element of worship.*

## We Approach the Lord

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Prelude

Call to Worship

***This call raises the question of who can declare all of God's praise (that due to Him). Although the truth is that no one can fully declare God's praise, the implied answer here is that only those who observe justice and do righteousness (the same thing) are qualified to declare God's praise. Meditate on why that is so.***

Psalm 106:1-3 ESV

1 Praise the LORD!

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD,  
or declare all his praise?

3 Blessed are they who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times!

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

\* Hymn of Praise

***This hymn, as does our text, leads us to Bethlehem, but for a much more blessed result than the text.***

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (Trinity Hymnal #208)

## We Acknowledge Our Sin

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\* Reading from the Law

***The practice of hospitality is one of the most important distinguishing marks of the people of God.***

Leviticus 25:35 ESV

“If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and a sojourner, and he shall live with you.

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

***In this expression of the longing of sinners throughout the ages we not only confess our sins and need of and longing for redemption, but declare our hope and joy in the coming of Christ to accomplish our salvation.***

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Trinity Hymnal #194)

We rejoice in the ASSurAnce of forgiveNeSS

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Assurance of Pardoning Grace

***There was no hospitality for the Son of God who came to redeem us from our sin and misery. Yet He was born unto us, and through Him we are redeemed!***

Luke 2:1-11 ESV

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

\* Hymn of Assurance

***The story of Christmas is a story that moves from humility and ignominy to glory. That is the movement in which we share, because we are one with Christ through faith.***

“Once in Royal David’s City” (Trinity Hymnal #225)

## We prAy for eAch Other

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Prayers of Intercession

(The minister will lead us in prayer, taking requests from individuals.)

## We heAr inStruction from the Lord

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Sermon

“Slouching Toward Sodom” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

\* Judges 19 <sup>ESV</sup>

1 In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a certain Levite was sojourning in the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim, who took to himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah. 2 And his concubine was unfaithful to him, and she went away from him to her father’s house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there some four months. 3 Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak

kindly to her and bring her back. He had with him his servant and a couple of donkeys. And she brought him into her father's house. And when the girl's father saw him, he came with joy to meet him. <sup>4</sup>And his father-in-law, the girl's father, made him stay, and he remained with him three days. So they ate and drank and spent the night there. <sup>5</sup>And on the fourth day they arose early in the morning, and he prepared to go, but the girl's father said to his son-in-law, "Strengthen your heart with a morsel of bread, and after that you may go." <sup>6</sup>So the two of them sat and ate and drank together. And the girl's father said to the man, "Be pleased to spend the night, and let your heart be merry." <sup>7</sup>And when the man rose up to go, his father-in-law pressed him, till he spent the night there again. <sup>8</sup>And on the fifth day he arose early in the morning to depart. And the girl's father said, "Strengthen your heart and wait until the day declines." So they ate, both of them. <sup>9</sup>And when the man and his concubine and his servant rose up to depart, his father-in-law, the girl's father, said to him, "Behold, now the day has waned toward evening. Please, spend the night. Behold, the day draws to its close. Lodge here and let your heart be merry, and tomorrow you shall arise early in the morning for your journey, and go home." <sup>10</sup>But the man would not spend the night. He rose up and departed and arrived opposite Jebus (that is, Jerusalem). He had with him a couple of saddled donkeys, and his concubine was with him. <sup>11</sup>When they were near Jebus, the day was nearly over, and the servant said to his master, "Come now, let us turn aside to this city of the Jebusites and spend the night in it." <sup>12</sup>And his master said to him, "We will not turn aside into the city of foreigners, who do not belong to the people of Israel, but we will pass on to Gibeah." <sup>13</sup>And he said to his young man, "Come and let us draw near to one of these places and spend the night at Gibeah or at Ramah." <sup>14</sup>So they passed on and went their way. And the sun went down on them near Gibeah, which belongs to Benjamin, <sup>15</sup>and they turned aside there, to go in and spend the night at Gibeah. And he went in and sat down in the open square of the city, for no one took them into his house to spend the night. <sup>16</sup>And behold, an old man was coming from his work in the field at evening. The man was from the hill country of Ephraim, and he was sojourning in Gibeah. The men of the place were Benjaminites. <sup>17</sup>And he lifted up his eyes and saw the traveler in the open square of the city. And the old man said, "Where are you going? And where do you come from?" <sup>18</sup>And he said to him, "We are passing from Bethlehem in Judah to the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim, from which

I come. I went to Bethlehem in Judah, and I am going to the house of the LORD, but no one has taken me into his house. <sup>19</sup>We have straw and feed for our donkeys, with bread and wine for me and your female servant and the young man with your servants. There is no lack of anything.” <sup>20</sup>And the old man said, “Peace be to you; I will care for all your wants. Only, do not spend the night in the square.” <sup>21</sup>So he brought him into his house and gave the donkeys feed. And they washed their feet, and ate and drank. <sup>22</sup>As they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, worthless fellows, surrounded the house, beating on the door. And they said to the old man, the master of the house, “Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him.” <sup>23</sup>And the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, “No, my brothers, do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not do this vile thing. <sup>24</sup>Behold, here are my virgin daughter and his concubine. Let me bring them out now. Violate them and do with them what seems good to you, but against this man do not do this outrageous thing.” <sup>25</sup>But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made her go out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until the morning. And as the dawn began to break, they let her go. <sup>26</sup>And as morning appeared, the woman came and fell down at the door of the man’s house where her master was, until it was light. <sup>27</sup>And her master rose up in the morning, and when he opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, behold, there was his concubine lying at the door of the house, with her hands on the threshold. <sup>28</sup>He said to her, “Get up, let us be going.” But there was no answer. Then he put her on the donkey, and the man rose up and went away to his home. <sup>29</sup>And when he entered his house, he took a knife, and taking hold of his concubine he divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel. <sup>30</sup>And all who saw it said, “Such a thing has never happened or been seen from the day that the people of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt until this day; consider it, take counsel, and speak.”

Leader:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation:

Thanks be to God!

Communion Meditation

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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. (**\*or universal**)

Distribution of Elements

***Because we believe that wine was used in the Last Supper and is thus more in accord with the fullness of symbolism intended by God in the Lord's Supper, we offer wine and encourage those who take part in Communion to take this. For those with conscientious convictions against the use of wine, however, we offer the option of grape juice, which is contained in the inner circle of the communion trays. The cups containing wine are in the outer circles of the trays.***



## “To Dwell With God” (Psalm 15)

1. <sup>1</sup> O LORD, who may draw near  
And make his home in your tent?  
O who, who is able  
To dwell on your holy hill?
2. <sup>2</sup> He who is blameless; he who does right;  
He who speaks truth in his heart.  
<sup>3</sup> He does not slander men with his tongue  
He does his neighbor no harm.
3. He will not bring shame to his friend.  
<sup>4</sup> His eyes despise worthless men,  
He exalts those who fear the LORD.  
He swears to his hurt; he won't change!
4. <sup>5</sup> He does not ask for more in return  
When he gives someone a loan.  
He takes no bribe against honest men.  
Whoever does this won't be moved!

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## “What Wondrous Love Is This”

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.
2. When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

Public Domain. Words and music: American folk hymn.

## We reSpond to the grAce of the Lord

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### Offering Meditation

***God's love to us is measured by the magnitude of His gift to us. We cannot match that, but we express our love to God likewise through our gifts to Him, particularly in formal worship.***

John 3:16 <sup>ESV</sup>

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

### Presentation of Offerings

See Communion

\* Doxology (Trinity Hymnal #731)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### Prayer of Dedication

## We reSpond to the Word

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***We began our worship with a call to come to Bethlehem, and now we return there to meditate as we depart on the profound wonder of what occurred there for our salvation. Make the last verse your prayer for this Christmas season and always.***

\* “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Trinity Hymnal #202)

### Benediction



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# VISION

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Purpose (our reason for existence): to reverse the effects of rebellion against God (sin)

Mission (what we are called to do): to build the Kingdom of God, by...

- adding people (incorporation)
- building people (edification)

Core Values (our fundamental commitments):

1. **Knowing** truth from God (Scripture)
2. **Being** right with God (Justification)
3. **Living** life for God (Sanctification)

Goals (what we seek to accomplish):

1. **Worship**—People experiencing and being attracted to and trained in the enjoyment of God
2. **Fellowship**—People displaying and enjoying genuinely loving and giving relationships/Christian community
3. **Christian Education**—People being confronted with and oriented to the whole truth of God
4. **Outreach**—People being drawn to the Church and trained to draw others
5. **Mercy**—People caring about and meeting the material needs of both non-Christians and other Christians

***How can you be a part of all this?***

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# SERMON NOTES

December 11, 2016

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“Slouching Toward Sodom” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

Judges 19

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Introduction:

*What spiritual failures in God’s people are indications of apostasy?*

- I. Apostasy manifests itself in *a hesitance to break with the world*, vv. 1-9.
  - A. The pursuit of God.

- B. The detention of His people.

- II. Apostasy manifests itself *in a lack of distinctness from the world*, vv.10-15.
  - A. From those subject to discipline.

B. From those responsible for discipline.

- III. Apostasy manifests *itself in an insensitivity to wickedness in the world,*  
vv. 16-30.
  - A. The sinfulness of the “righteous.”

B. The depravity of the wicked.

— **For Your Personal Devotions** —

Points of Application:

Memorable Illustrations:

Evaluation:

Questions for Further Study: