



CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, December 13, 2020

"...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 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.

** Indicates congregational standing*

WE APPROACH THE LORD

Prelude

Call to Worship

As we have seen many times, the role of God's people in establishing the Kingdom of Christ includes both grace and judgment, as the response to the gospel is either faith unto blessing or rejection unto cursing.

Psalm 149 ^{ESV}

¹ Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

² Let Israel be glad in his Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

³ Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

⁴ For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with salvation.

⁵ Let the godly exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their beds.

⁶ Let the high praises of God be in their throats
and two-edged swords in their hands,

⁷ to execute vengeance on the nations
and punishments on the peoples,

⁸ to bind their kings with chains
and their nobles with fetters of iron,

⁹ to execute on them the judgment written!
This is honor for all his godly ones.

Praise the LORD!

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

* Hymn of Praise

We to Bethlehem to adore the One who was "born the King..."

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

(Trinity Hymnal #208)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

* Reading from the Law

Like the people of Israel, we are often not content with the limits of God's revelation, but want more than mere commands. But it is the truth of God's Word alone which brings true blessing.

Deuteronomy 18:9–13 ESV

"When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. ¹⁰There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer ¹¹ or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, ¹² for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you. ¹³You shall be blameless before the LORD your God."

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

The confession in this hymn is implicit in the example it propounds and the prayer it expresses. It sets forth the humility and trusting confidence of a child, which we emulate as we pray for Christ's abiding and confidence-giving presence, in contrast to an arrogant, self-sufficient craving for control and withheld knowledge and power.

"Away in a Manger"

(Trinity Hymnal #205)

WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

We rejoice and have hope, as this passage reminds us, because "while we were still weak, ... Christ died" for us.

Romans 5:1–6 ^{ESV}

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Leader: This is the gospel.

Congregation: Hallelujah!

* Hymn of Assurance

We revel in the words of Isaiah 40 as we celebrate the comfort of the coming of the Kingdom of Christ.

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

(Trinity Hymnal #197)

WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Prayers of Intercession

*During this time, the elders will be in the back of the room, ready to take personal prayer requests from and pray with all who want this. These will be confidential if desired. Everyone who is not receiving prayer in this way will participate in corporate prayer as the worship leader mentions a list of topics. As each item is mentioned, the congregation should respond with the words, "**We offer these our prayers,**" followed by a brief silent prayer from each individual.*

WE HEAR INSTRUCTION FROM THE LORD

Sermon

"Born a Child and Yet a King"

(Mike Biggs)

* Micah 5

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God

WE COMMUNE WITH OUR LORD

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.

"O God, Your Judgments Give the King" (Trinity Hymnal #312)

WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Offering Meditation

Like the wise men of old, we present our gifts to King Jesus as an act of worship.

Matthew 2:11 ESV

And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" *(Trinity Hymnal #198)*

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

We pray that the hope of the Kingdom of Christ, to which biblical contemplation of Bethlehem brings us, might be fully realized in us through God's work and Christ's presence in us.

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" *(Trinity Hymnal #201)*

Benediction