

CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, December 15, 2019

"...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.

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 congregational standing*

WE APPROACH THE LORD

Prelude

Call to Worship

These verses demonstrate how the simultaneous awareness both of God's transcendent, kingly majesty and of His kind and good care for His sheep requires, justifies, and inspires our worship.

Psalms 95:1-7^{ESV}

- ¹ Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- ³ For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
- ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.
- ⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
- ⁷ For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

* Hymn of Praise

As we begin our Christmas hymn season, we recall the announcement and exhortation of the angels on the night of Christ's birth, and join their praise.

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

(Trinity Hymnal #218)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

*** Reading from the Law**

We are commanded here to place our trust in the Lord rather than in men who seem to have power, such as civil rulers ("princes"), not only because it is God who truly reigns over all that He has created, but also because He is good and delights to be kind give His creatures good things, especially those who are downtrodden.

Psalm 146:3-10^{ESV}

- ³ Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
⁴ When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.
⁵ Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
⁶ who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free;
⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
⁹ The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the LORD!

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

The essence of this confession is in the admission of our tendency to subject God and His ways to our limited human understanding and our consequent doubt in the goodness of what He has ordained.

Corporate Confession:

Almighty Father, Who by your will and for your glory formed us and everything else in all creation, Who upholds all things by the power of your Word, and Who has graciously and lovingly preserved your people and provided for our needs, we confess our constant failure to trust You and rely upon your goodness. Instead of leaning wholly upon You, we have thought and acted upon the meager understanding afforded by our limited human perspectives. Rather than acknowledging You in all our ways, we have forgotten You and turned to our own way, the way that seems right unto a man, but leads to death. We have sinned against You constantly by presuming to own ourselves and our ways, in violation of your holy command to trust You with all of our hearts. With renewed faith we cast ourselves upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness. In abject sorrow we confess our unbelief, and in heartfelt and sincere repentance ask You for the grace of faith, wrought by your Holy Spirit, which You have promised to give your people Israel. Write your law on our hearts, that we may adopt your heart and mind, and evermore walk in the light, as You are in the light, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

God does not act as we would if we were in His place, which is why the fact that He is completely sovereign and omnipotent should not frighten but should instead comfort us.

Isaiah 55:6-9^{ESV}

⁶ "Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on
him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Leader: This is the gospel.

Congregation: Hallelujah!

* Hymn of Assurance

In our second Christmas hymn today we call each others' attention to the message of the gospel that the angels we referenced in our first hymn proclaimed.

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

(Trinity Hymnal #203)

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

“The Issue is Sovereignty” Part 2

(Rev. Mike Biggs)

* **Exodus 8** ^{ESV} Please reference the pew Bible or a personal copy.

* **Romans 9:6-23** ^{ESV}

⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹ For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁰ And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— ¹² she was told, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very

purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸ So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" ²⁰ But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹ Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? ²² What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—

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.

"Away in a Manger"

(Trinity Hymnal #204)

WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Offering Meditation

Our trust in the goodness of God to provide for our needs enables us to give to His cause in an uninhibited and liberal way.

2 Corinthians 9:8^{ESV}

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

"All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord" vs 1 & 5 (Trinity Hymnal #219)

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

In our closing hymn we reflect upon a theme common in consideration of God's sovereignty, which is His exaltation of that which is humble, doing great things through lowly means and instruments. Pay particular attention to verse 4, and make it your prayer today.

* **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

(Trinity Hymnal #202)

Benediction

VISION

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)

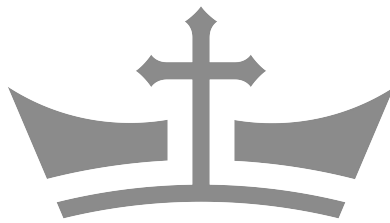
CoreValues (our fundamental commitments):

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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