



CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, December 4, 2016

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



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.*

Prelude

Call to Worship

We are called to worship today, as Israel was in this psalm, as a response to God's redemption of us from slavery and His gracious establishment of His covenant with us.

Psalm 81:1-7 ESV

- 1 Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob!
- 2 Raise a song; sound the tambourine,
the sweet lyre with the harp.
- 3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon,
at the full moon, on our feast day.
- 4 For it is a statute for Israel,
a rule of the God of Jacob.
- 5 He made it a decree in Joseph
when he went out over the land of Egypt.
I hear a language I had not known:
- 6 "I relieved your shoulder of the burden;
your hands were freed from the basket.
- 7 In distress you called, and I delivered you;
I answered you in the secret place of thunder;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

* Hymn of Praise

We begin our celebration of the Christmas season as we sing the words of Psalm 24, praising the One who came and is coming to redeem His people as their King.

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

* Reading from the Law

We return to the psalm of our call to worship this morning, as God commands us to listen as He admonishes us and expresses His intense desire that we listen to Him, declaring the immense blessing that would be ours if we did.

Psalm 81:8-16 ESV

⁸Hear, O my people, while I admonish you! O Israel, if you would but listen to me! ⁹There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god. ¹⁰I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. ¹¹“But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. ¹²So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels. ¹³Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! ¹⁴I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes. ¹⁵Those who hate the LORD would cringe toward him, and their fate would last forever. ¹⁶But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

In this confession and prayer for forgiveness there is a plea for restoration from God and a declaration of a steadfast intention to listen to Him, with the hopeful expectation that what He will speak is peace to them.

Responsive Reading, Psalm 85; Trinity Hymnal p. 814

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

God appeals to Israel, who has gone into captivity because of their stubborn pursuit of idolatry, to listen to Him and know the availability of His grace and the futility of idols.

Isaiah 46:3-13 ESV

³ “Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; ⁴ even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save. ⁵ “To whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be alike? ⁶ Those who lavish gold from the purse, and weigh out silver in the scales, hire a goldsmith, and he makes it into a god; then they fall down and worship! ⁷ They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it, they set it in its place, and it stands there; it cannot move from its place. If one cries to it, it does not answer or save him from his trouble. ⁸ “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, ⁹ remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ ¹¹ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it. ¹² “Listen to me, you stubborn of heart, you who are far from righteousness: ¹³ I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory.”

* Hymn of Assurance

The words of this hymn are drawn from Isaiah 40, the beginning of that magnificent section of Isaiah in which God speaks healing and comfort to those who have experienced exile in Babylon because of their idolatry.

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” (Trinity Hymnal #197)

We prAy for eAch Other

Prayers of Intercession

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

We heAr inStruction from the Lord

Sermon

“The Marks of Apostasy” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

* Judges 18 ^{ESV}

¹ In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the people of Dan was seeking for itself an inheritance to dwell in, for until then no inheritance among the tribes of Israel had fallen to them. ² So the people of Dan sent five able men from the whole number of their tribe, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to explore it. And they said to them, “Go and explore the land.” And they came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, and lodged there. ³ When they were by the house of Micah, they recognized the voice of the young Levite. And they turned aside and said to him, “Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What is your business here?” ⁴ And he said to them, “This is how Micah dealt with me: he has hired me,

and I have become his priest.”⁵ And they said to him, “Inquire of God, please, that we may know whether the journey on which we are setting out will succeed.”⁶ And the priest said to them, “Go in peace. The journey on which you go is under the eye of the LORD.”⁷ Then the five men departed and came to Laish and saw the people who were there, how they lived in security, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and unsuspecting, lacking nothing that is in the earth and possessing wealth, and how they were far from the Sidonians and had no dealings with anyone.⁸ And when they came to their brothers at Zorah and Eshtaol, their brothers said to them, “What do you report?”⁹ They said, “Arise, and let us go up against them, for we have seen the land, and behold, it is very good. And will you do nothing? Do not be slow to go, to enter in and possess the land.¹⁰ As soon as you go, you will come to an unsuspecting people. The land is spacious, for God has given it into your hands, a place where there is no lack of anything that is in the earth.”¹¹ So 600 men of the tribe of Dan, armed with weapons of war, set out from Zorah and Eshtaol,¹² and went up and encamped at Kiriath-jearim in Judah. On this account that place is called Mahaneh-dan to this day; behold, it is west of Kiriath-jearim.¹³ And they passed on from there to the hill country of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.¹⁴ Then the five men who had gone to scout out the country of Laish said to their brothers, “Do you know that in these houses there are an ephod, household gods, a carved image, and a metal image? Now therefore consider what you will do.”¹⁵ And they turned aside there and came to the house of the young Levite, at the home of Micah, and asked him about his welfare.¹⁶ Now the 600 men of the Danites, armed with their weapons of war, stood by the entrance of the gate.¹⁷ And the five men who had gone to scout out the land went up and entered and took the carved image, the ephod, the household gods, and the metal image, while the priest stood by the entrance of the gate with the 600 men armed with weapons of war.¹⁸ And when these went into Micah’s house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household gods, and the metal image, the priest said to them, “What are you doing?”¹⁹ And they said to him, “Keep quiet; put your hand on your mouth and come with us and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to be priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and clan in Israel?”²⁰ And the priest’s heart was glad. He took the ephod and the household gods and the carved image and went along with the people.²¹ So they turned and departed, putting the little ones and the livestock and

the goods in front of them. ²² When they had gone a distance from the home of Micah, the men who were in the houses near Micah's house were called out, and they overtook the people of Dan. ²³ And they shouted to the people of Dan, who turned around and said to Micah, "What is the matter with you, that you come with such a company?" ²⁴ And he said, "You take my gods that I made and the priest, and go away, and what have I left? How then do you ask me, 'What is the matter with you?'" ²⁵ And the people of Dan said to him, "Do not let your voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows fall upon you, and you lose your life with the lives of your household." ²⁶ Then the people of Dan went their way. And when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back to his home. ²⁷ But the people of Dan took what Micah had made, and the priest who belonged to him, and they came to Laish, to a people quiet and unsuspecting, and struck them with the edge of the sword and burned the city with fire. ²⁸ And there was no deliverer because it was far from Sidon, and they had no dealings with anyone. It was in the valley that belongs to Beth-rehob. Then they rebuilt the city and lived in it. ²⁹ And they named the city Dan, after the name of Dan their ancestor, who was born to Israel; but the name of the city was Laish at the first. ³⁰ And the people of Dan set up the carved image for themselves, and Jonathan the son of Gershom, son of Moses, and his sons were priests to the tribe of the Danites until the day of the captivity of the land. ³¹ So they set up Micah's carved image that he made, as long as the house of God was at Shiloh.

Leader:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation:

Thanks be to God!

W e C o m m u n e W i t h O u r L o r d

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 Help My Unbelief"

1. How sad our state by nature is! Our sin, how deep it stains!
And Satan binds our captive minds Fast in his slavish chains
But there's a voice of sov'reign grace,
Sounds from the sacred word:
"O, ye despairing sinners come, And trust upon the Lord."
2. My soul obeys th' almighty call, And runs to this relief
I would believe thy promise, Lord; O help my unbelief!
To the dear fountain of thy blood, Incarnate God, I fly;
Here let me wash my spotted soul, From crimes of deepest dye.
3. Stretch out Thine arm, victorious King, My reigning sins subdue;
Drive the old dragon from his seat, With all his hellish crew.
A guilty, weak, and helpless worm, On thy kind arms I fall;
Be thou my strength and righteousness, My Jesus, and my all.

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

1. The King of Love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And, where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me;
And on His shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing brought me.
4. In death's dark vale, I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.
5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thine unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth.
6. And so through all the length of days,
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever.

Public Domain. Words: Henry Baker. Music: Traditional Irish tune.

We reSpond to the grAce of the Lord

Offering Meditation

God's promise to those who listen to and trust in Him is that He will satisfy us completely. It is through our trust in the promise that we are enabled to give as He commands us.

Psalm 81:16 ESV

But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

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 conclude our worship with the prayer of the ages: that Christ will come and bring His full salvation to all those who are waiting for Him.

* “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (Trinity Hymnal #196)

Presentation of Mercy Ministry Offerings

(during hymn)

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)

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?

SERMON NOTES

December 4, 2016

“The Marks of Apostasy” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

Judges 18

Introduction:

What are the characteristics of covenant apostasy among God's people?

- I. *Apostasy manifests a ruthless manipulation of covenant revelation.*
 - A. *Sheep who seek the affirmation of their folly.*

- B. *Shepherds who seek the security of their welfare.*

- II. Apostasy manifests a *heartless aversion to covenant discipline*.
 - A. From those subject to discipline.

- B. From those responsible for discipline.

III. Apostasy manifests a *faithless pursuit of covenant blessings*.

A. Unbelief sabotages contentment.

B. Unbelief limits achievement.

— **For Your Personal Devotions** —

Points of Application:

Memorable Illustrations:

Evaluation:

Questions for Further Study: