



# CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, March 12, 2017

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



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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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*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

*Once again today, we use this psalm as our call to worship, remembering that it is mostly a reflection on the relationship between God's kingdom and those who have rebelled against it,*

*which includes us and all sinners. But it ends with a call for all such rebels to “rejoice” at His kingdom and to “Kiss the Son” in worship and service. It is to do both of these that we have gathered today.*

Psalm 2 <sup>ESV</sup>

- 1 Why do the nations rage  
and the peoples plot in vain?
- 2 The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying,
- 3 “Let us burst their bonds apart  
and cast away their cords from us.”
- 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;  
the Lord holds them in derision.
- 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
- 6 “As for me, I have set my King  
on Zion, my holy hill.”
- 7 I will tell of the decree:  
The Lord said to me, “You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.
- 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.
- 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron  
and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”
- 10 Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
- 11 Serve the Lord with fear,  
and rejoice with trembling.
- 12 Kiss the Son,  
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Hymn of Praise

*We proclaim the praises of our only Mediator and Redeemer in this great hymn, with a final prayer that Christ bring to consummation all of His saving work in the Restoration to come, thereby enabling us to worship Him perfectly.*

\* “O Savior, Precious Savior” (Trinity Hymnal #159)

## We Acknowledge Our Sin

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\* Reading from the Law

*The people here are told in no uncertain terms that there is only one God and that they are to know and “lay it to [their] heart[s]” that such is the case, a command requiring absolute intolerance for pluralism in all of its forms.*

Deuteronomy 4:32-40 ESV

<sup>32</sup> “For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of. <sup>33</sup> Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live? <sup>34</sup> Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? <sup>35</sup> To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord is God; there is no other besides him. <sup>36</sup> Out of heaven he let you hear his voice, that he might discipline you. And on earth he let you see his great fire, and you heard his words out of the midst of the fire. <sup>37</sup> And because he loved your fathers and chose their offspring after them and brought you out of Egypt with his own presence, by his great power, <sup>38</sup> driving out before you nations greater and mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land for an inheritance, as it is this day, <sup>39</sup> know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. <sup>40</sup> Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for all time.”

Silent Confession of Sin  
Corporate Confession of Sin

*God said through Joel, as we saw three weeks ago (Acts 2), that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord (Jesus) shall be saved. In this confession we call upon that name.*

“Out of the Deep I Call”

1. Out of the deep I call  
To Thee, O Lord, to Thee.  
Before Thy throne of grace I fall;  
Be merciful to me,  
Be merciful to me.
2. Out of the deep I cry,  
The woeful deep of sin,  
Of evil done in days gone by,  
Of evil now within,  
Of evil now within;
3. Out of the deep of fear  
And dread of coming shame;  
All night ‘til morning watch is near  
I plead the precious name,  
I plead the precious name.
4. Lord, there is mercy now,  
As ever was, with Thee.  
Before Thy throne of grace I bow;  
Be merciful to me,  
Be merciful to me,

*TAG: Be merciful to me,  
Be merciful to me.*

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*We rejoice in the ASSurAnce of forgivenESS*

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Assurance of Pardoning Grace

*There is only one way of salvation and only one way to God, and that is through Jesus.*

John 14:1-6; Acts 4:11, 12 <sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>1</sup> “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>11</sup> This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

\* Hymn of Assurance

*We begin by acknowledging our sin again in this song of grace,  
and end with a celebration of God’s unparalleled mercy in Christ.*

“Psalm 130 – From the Depths of Woe”

1. From the depths of woe I raise to Thee the voice of lamentation  
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me and hear my supplication  
If Thou iniquities dost mark our secret sins and misdeeds dark  
O who shall stand before Thee? (*echo*)  
O who shall stand before Thee? (*echo*)
2. To wash away the crimson stain; grace, grace alone availeth  
Our works, alas! are all in vain. In much the best life faileth  
No man can glory in Thy sight. All must alike confess Thy might  
And live alone by mercy (*echo*)  
And live alone by mercy (*echo*)
3. Therefore my trust is in the Lord and not in mine own merit  
On Him my soul shall rest, His Word upholds my failing spirit  
His promised mercy is my fort,  
My comfort and my sweet support  
I wait for it with patience (*echo*)  
I wait for it with patience (*echo*)

4. What though I wait the live-long night and till the dawn appeareth  
My heart still trusteth in His might I doubteth not nor feareth  
Do thus O ye of Israel's seed ye of the Spirit born indeed  
And wait till God appeareth (*echo*)  
And wait till God appeareth (*echo*)
5. Though great our sins and sore our woes  
His grace much more aboundeth  
His helping love no limit knows. Our utmost need it soundeth  
Our Shepherd good and true is He who will at last His Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow (*echo*)  
From all their sin and sorrow (*echo*)

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## 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

“The Inevitability of Persecution” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

\* Acts 4:1-22 <sup>ESV</sup>

<sup>1</sup> And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup> greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup> And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. <sup>4</sup> But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the

number of the men came to about five thousand. <sup>5</sup> On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup> with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup> And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup> if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup> let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup> This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” <sup>13</sup> Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. <sup>14</sup> But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. <sup>15</sup> But when they had commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, <sup>16</sup> saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. <sup>17</sup> But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” <sup>18</sup> So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, <sup>20</sup> for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.” <sup>21</sup> And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. <sup>22</sup> For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

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.*

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

- I. A mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing;  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

2. Did we in our own strength confide,  
Our striving would be losing  
Were not the right Man on our side,  
The Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabbaoth, His name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled,  
Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us:  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.
4. That word above all earthly powers,  
No thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
Through Him Who with us sideth;  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.

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## We reSpond to the grAce of the Lord

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### Offering Meditation

*As with the wise men of old, part of the way we acknowledge Jesus as King is to present Him with gifts of tribute as a public act of worship.*

Matthew 2:1-11 ESV

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>

“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.<sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”<sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.<sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.<sup>11</sup> 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.

#### 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 conclude our worship with a manifesto of commitment to serve the King of kings with all that we have and are.*

#### \* “All for Jesus!” (Trinity Hymnal #565)

#### 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

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March 12, 2017

“The Inevitability of Persecution” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

Acts 4:1-22

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Introduction:

*Why is persecution inevitable for the body of Christ in the world?*

- I. Persecution is inevitable because of *the challenge Christ’s Kingdom imposes*, vv. 1-7.
  - A. The focus on earthly rulers.

- B. The complicity of all people.

II. Persecution is inevitable because of *the exclusivity Christ's kingdom asserts*, vv. 8-12.

A. Salvation presupposes authority.

B. Authority presupposes exclusivity.

III. Persecution is inevitable because of *the allegiance Christ's kingdom inspires*, vv. 13-22.

A. The power of communion with Jesus.

B. The irony of opposition to Jesus.

C. The obligation of loyalty to Jesus.

— **For Your Personal Devotions** —

Points of Application:

Memorable Illustrations:

Evaluation:

Questions for Further Study: