



# CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, March 19, 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.*

Prelude

Call to Worship

*This psalm exhorts us to praise God with unbridled enthusiasm because He is the King of all the earth. But notice that it is not simply because God is the king; it is because He has become the King. The psalm says that “God has gone up,” referring either to the coronation ceremony of the King of Israel, or to a victorious ascension to Jerusalem of the King following a military victory over the enemies of God and His people. This cannot refer primarily to the kingship of God in general, since this has always been a fact and He never “became” king. Therefore, this is a command to rejoice in the kingship of the Messiah, Jesus, who has ascended to the throne after obtaining victory over all of His and our enemies, and has given us a heritage of dominion over the nations (cf. Psalm 2; Revelation 2:26, 27), all of which the psalm indicates should fuel our praise.*

Psalm 47<sup>ESV</sup>

- 1 Clap your hands, all peoples!  
    Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
- 2 For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,  
    a great king over all the earth.
- 3 He subdued peoples under us,  
    and nations under our feet.
- 4 He chose our heritage for us,  
    the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah
- 5 God has gone up with a shout,  
    the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises!  
    Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth;  
    sing praises with a psalm!
- 8 God reigns over the nations;  
    God sits on his holy throne.
- 9 The princes of the peoples gather  
    as the people of the God of Abraham.  
    For the shields of the earth belong to God;  
    he is highly exalted!

## Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

### \* Hymn of Praise

*This hymn is based on the vision of Christ which John saw at the beginning of the book of Revelation, and it calls us and all other people to praise Him eternally because of the implications of these symbols. For instance, He holds the seven stars in His hand, which symbolize the seven churches, which in turn symbolize the Church universal, which teaches us that Christ holds the Church in His hand and is in complete control as King and Protector.*

“He Walks among the Golden Lamps” (Trinity Hymnal #315)

## W e A c k n o w L e d g e O u r S i n

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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

*We center our confession today on our failure to acknowledge and  
live out the implications of God's sovereignty over us.*

O Most Merciful Father, Who gives life to everything that breathes  
and Whose eyes are too pure to gaze upon iniquity, we lay before  
You our sin and uncleanness in utter shame and humiliation. In direct  
defiance of our continuing debt to live unto You, acknowledge You,  
serve You and obey You, we have turned into ourselves and to our  
own way, pursuing our own ends as if we could create our own  
meaning, so rendering ourselves liable to Your just wrath and the  
penalty of death. We despise our ways, but confess that we are utterly  
powerless to change them or to please You truly to any degree. But  
we remember that You have declared Yourself to be the gracious  
and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love and  
faithfulness. We thus cast ourselves upon Your mercy, believing Your  
precious promise that those who come to You, You will in no wise  
cast out. We know and trust that, for the sake of Your dear Son, our  
Savior, you will not only forgive both our sin and our sins, but also  
grant us power like unto that by which You raised Him from the dead  
to walk in newness of life, not for the sake of any merit which we  
obtain thereby, but solely for the glory of the Name which is above  
every name, in which we offer this our prayer. Amen.

### 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 ESV

<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

*The God who is our God, the King, is also merciful. We celebrate that hopeful and wonderful fact in this hymn of gratitude and praise now.*

#### “Thy Mercy, My God”

1. Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,  
The joy of my heart. and the boast of my tongue;  
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.
2. Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;  
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;  
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,  
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

3. Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,  
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.
4. Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,  
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;  
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

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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” Part II (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.*

## “In Christ Alone”

1. In Christ alone, my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand
2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This Gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live
3. There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry, to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till he returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

## We reSpond to the grAce of the Lord

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### Offering Meditation

*An essential part of the worship of God as King is the presentation to Him of offerings of tribute. Worship Him in this way as you do this today.*

Psalm 96:7-10a ESV

7 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth!

10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

### 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 19, 2017

“The Inevitability of Persecution” Part II (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: