



CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, April 1, 2018

“...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 congregational standing*

Prelude

Call to Worship

The mightiest deed of all was the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, involving a new creation of all in union with Him.

Psalms 106:1, 2; 116:1-9 ESV

Leader:

1 Praise the LORD!

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Who can utter the mighty deeds of the LORD,
or declare all his praise?

Congregation:

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

2 Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

3 The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

4 Then I called on the name of the LORD:
“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”

5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.

6 The LORD preserves the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.

7 Return, O my soul, to your rest;
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

8 For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling;

9 I will walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

* Hymn of Praise

We celebrate together the most glorious truth imaginable: Christ has overcome death, and so have we in Him. Let nothing hinder your praise! Sing loudly and with all your heart! Christ has opened Paradise! Death has no sting! ALLELUIA!!!

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” (Trinity Hymnal #277)

We Acknowledge Our Sin

* Reading from the Law

The Resurrection is not simply an article of faith to be confessed; it is a fact the implications of which are to be lived out. One of those implications is that we are to be fully invested and to give our best to the Lord's work, because it is not futile, but rather the battle has already been won by Christ.

I Corinthians 15:58 ESV

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

In this prayer of confession and repentance we ask not only for deliverance from the penalty of death, but for the power of Christ's resurrection to enable us to live for Him who gave Himself for us.

Corporate Confession: 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 sins and our sin, 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.

We Rejoice in the ASSurAnce of forgiveNeSS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

Through the gospel Christ gives all who are united to Him life, thus enabling them to share in His kingdom and rule with Him.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26 ESV

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

* Hymn of Assurance

The only way that we can sing this song about the cross, glorying in it, is because the cross isn't the end of the story. It is only when we combine the story of the cross with that of the Resurrection that we have good news, and assurance of eternal life in Christ.

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
W: The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
M: *The sha—dow in a weary land*
W: A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
M: *A home, a rest, upon the way*
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus, mine eye at times can see
W: The very dying form of One Who suffered there for me;
M: *The ver—y dying One for me;*
W: And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess
M: *And from my heart, I con—fess*
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place:
W: I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of His face;
M: *I ask, no o—ther than His face;*
W: Content to let the world go by to know no gain nor loss,
M: *Content to know no gain nor loss.*
My sinful self my only shame, my glory, all the cross.

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

“It’s (Really!) a Wonderful Life” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

* I Corinthians 15:12-19, 30-32 ESV

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. ³⁰ Why are we in danger every hour? ³¹ I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³² What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

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

Offering Meditation

It is highly significant that the psalmist here indicates that at least part of the proper response to God for his deliverance from death is to present offerings to Him in the context of formal worship. This is the principal reason why we do not receive online giving, but instead reserve this as an act of worship to be included in our services. As is indicated here, this act is especially appropriate at Easter.

Psalm 116:12-19 ^{ESV}

- 12 What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?
- 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,
- 14 I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
- 15 Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.
- 16 O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.
- 17 I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.
- 18 I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
- 19 in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!

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

*As we leave today we call each other and all creation to share
in the virtue and joy that attend the resurrected Christ for all
eternity.*

* "The Day of Resurrection!" (Trinity Hymnal #267)

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

April 1, 2018

“It’s (Really!) a Wonderful Life” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

I Corinthians 15:12-19, 30-32

Introduction:

What if Christ had not risen?

- I. If Christ had not risen, we would have no knowledge.
 - A. The index of reality.

- B. The validation of the Word.

- II. If Christ had not risen, we would have no freedom.
 - A. The definition of freedom.

B. The key to freedom.

III. If Christ had not risen, we would have no meaning.
A. The futility of naturalism.

B. The theistic focus of reality.

~~For Your Personal Devotions~~

Points of Application:

Memorable Illustrations:

Evaluation:

Questions for Further Study: