



CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, September 17, 2017

"...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*

We Approach the Lord Prelude

Call to Worship

The background of this psalm seems to be the persecution and ridicule by pagan idolaters of God's people. The call is to give glory to God alone, but includes references to God's faithfulness and worthiness to be relied upon in such situations, not to mention a rationale for God's protection: that the dead do not praise Him.

Psalm 115^{ESV}

- 1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!
- 2 Why should the nations say,
“Where is their God?”
- 3 Our God is in the heavens;
he does all that he pleases.
- 4 Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.
- 5 They have mouths, but do not speak;
eyes, but do not see.
- 6 They have ears, but do not hear;
noses, but do not smell.
- 7 They have hands, but do not feel;
feet, but do not walk;
and they do not make a sound in their throat.
- 8 Those who make them become like them;
so do all who trust in them.
- 9 O Israel, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.
- 10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.
- 11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.
- 12 The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us;
he will bless the house of Israel;
he will bless the house of Aaron;
- 13 he will bless those who fear the LORD,
both the small and the great.
- 14 May the LORD give you increase,
you and your children!
- 15 May you be blessed by the LORD,
who made heaven and earth!
- 16 The heavens are the LORD’S heavens,
but the earth he has given to the children of man.
- 17 The dead do not praise the LORD,
nor do any who go down into silence.
- 18 But we will bless the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore.
Praise the LORD!

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

* Hymn of Praise

Our hymn of praise today celebrates God's justice, which gives us confidence in the midst of persecution, which this hymn envisions.

"O Lord Most High, with All My Heart" (Trinity Hymnal #48)

We Acknowledge Our Sin

* Reading from the Law

Jesus's command to His disciples in the Upper Room, and to us, was to "know" and to "remember" something very important: that the world hated Him and therefore will hate us. Obeying this command is what prepares us to endure in expectant hope rather than to wilt in naive disillusionment when encountering persecution.

John 15:18-21 ^{ESV}

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

The accent in this prayer of confession and for forgiveness is on the ministry of God in teaching the repentant sinner the way of truth and righteousness, which is an indication of the true repentance of the psalmist, and of us, if we make this our prayer. Notice as well the inclusion of prayer for deliverance from enemies, which is so often a part of penitent prayers in the psalms.

Responsive Reading, Psalm 143; Trinity Hymnal pp. 837-838

We rejoice in the ASSurAnce of forgiveNeSS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

Love of believers in Christ rather than hatred and persecution of them is one of the marks of the one who is born again and whose sins are propitiated before God. If we are of the persecuted, we should rejoice, for our names are written in Heaven (Matthew 5:10-12).

1 John 3:13, 14; 4:7-11 ESV

¹³ Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. ⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

* Hymn of Assurance

No matter what God permits to happen in our lives, He is with us, will get us through it, and will use it for our good. We know this because of His eternal commitment to His people, which can never change.

“Be Still, My Soul” (Trinity Hymnal #689)

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 Seed of the Church” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

* Acts 8:1-8 ESV

¹ And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. ⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

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.

“The Church’s one Foundation” (Trinity Hymnal #347)

We reSpond to the grAce of the Lord

Offering Meditation

Affliction and hard times only caused the Macedonians to be more giving, not less. How do such things affect us?

II Corinthians 8:1-4 ESV

1 We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—

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

This hymn, penned by a believing slave, points to the time when all injustices and all wrongs shall be ended, with God's New Society firmly established. This is the hope of all believers.

* "Beams of Heaven"

1. Beams of heaven as I go,
Through the wilderness below,
Guide my feet in peaceful ways,
Turn my midnights into days.
When in the darkness I would grope,
Faith always sees a star of hope,
And soon from all life's grief and danger
I shall be free someday.
I shall be free someday.
2. Often times my sky is clear,
Joy abounds without a tear;
Though a day so bright begun,
Clouds may hide tomorrow's sun.
There'll be a day that's always bright,
A day that never yields to night,
And in its light the streets of glory
I shall behold someday.
I shall behold someday.
3. Harder yet may be the fight;
Right may often yield to might;
Wickedness a while may reign;
Satan's cause may seem to gain.
But there's a God that rules above
With hand of power and heart of love;
And if I'm right, he'll fight my battle,
I shall have peace someday.
I shall have peace someday.

4. Burdens now may crush me down,
Disappointments all around;
Troubles speak in mournful sigh,
Sorrow through a tear-stained eye.
There is a world where pleasure reigns,
No mourning soul shall roam its plains,
And to that land of peace and glory
I shall want to go someday.
I shall want to go someday.
I shall want to go someday.

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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

September 17, 2017

“The Seed of the Church” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

Acts 8:1-8

Introduction:

How should the Church view persecution?

- I. Persecution is a *reaction to the Word of God*, vv. 1-3.
 - A. It is unpleasant.

B. It is unavoidable.

II. Persecution is *a tool in the hands of God*, vv. 2, 4.

A. The discipline of God.

B. The plan of God.

III. Persecution is a *blessing for the people of God*, vv. 5-8.

A. Power through transaction.

B. Power through grace.

— **For Your Personal Devotions** —

Points of Application:

Memorable Illustrations:

Evaluation:

Questions for Further Study: