

CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, Sunday, September 10, 2023

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



CHRIST - THE KING -

— 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 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.

** Indicates congregational standing*

WE APPROACH THE LORD

Call to Worship

We participate in calling each other to worship, using the words of the heavenly worship recorded for us in Revelation 5:12–14.

Revelation 5:12–14 *ESV* [in the following exchange]

Leader: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

Congregation: **To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!**

All: Amen!

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

* Hymn of Praise

We express in our hymn of praise today the desire of all those throughout the ages who know Jesus Christ: that He be praised.

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

(Trinity Hymnal #167)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

* Reading from the Law

There is good reason that God did not allow Israel to see any form when He spoke to them at Sinai. We should not identify anything in creation with God except the incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, who is the perfect image of God.

Deuteronomy 4:9–20 *ESV*

"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—¹⁰ how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.'¹¹ And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in

darkness, cloud, and gloom. ¹² Then the LORD spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. ¹³ And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone. ¹⁴ And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess.

¹⁵ "Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, ¹⁶ beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, ¹⁷ the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, ¹⁸ the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. ¹⁹ And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. ²⁰ But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

In today's confession we repent of our idolatry, the replacing of the true God in our hearts with a false image of our own making, and return to devotion to the one true God, perfectly revealed in Jesus our Savior.

Almighty and most holy God, who is too holy to look upon evil, and who declares Himself to be a most jealous God, who will not tolerate the idols with which your people at times would replace you, we confess before you our utter shame in excusing and minimizing our offenses against you, treating them as trivial and insignificant, and our self-congratulatory toleration of the evil around us. We have failed to love what you love, and hate what you hate, and have instead embraced the vile things which repulse you and would destroy us. Forgive our foolishness and wickedness we pray, and give us grace enabling us to transcend our desire for peace when there is no peace, and to endure whatever strife is necessary to commit ourselves single-mindedly to the establishment of your Kingdom, beginning with the ruthless mortification of the iniquity within our own hearts, through the power of our risen and victorious Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

The good news is that God's will is that we be transformed and conformed to the image of God as it is perfectly revealed in Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:17, 18; 4:3–6 ESV

^{3:17} Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

^{18:3} And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Leader: This is the gospel.

Congregation: Hallelujah!

* Hymn of Assurance

Some adults feel strange singing this hymn, as if they are too mature or sophisticated for it to mean much to them. But Jesus said that those who come to Him must come as a little child, and the reality is that the simple truth of God's love for His children, and of our trust in that love, is beautifully and perfectly expressed here.

"Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"

(Trinity Hymnal #189)

WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Prayers of Intercession

During this time the elders will be in the back of the room, ready to take personal prayer requests from and pray with all who want this, and these will be confidential if desired. Everyone who is not receiving prayer in this way will

participate in corporate prayer as the worship leader mentions a list of topics. As each item is mentioned, the congregation should respond with the words, "We offer these our prayers," followed by a brief silent prayer from each individual.

WE HEAR INSTRUCTION FROM THE LORD

Sermon

(Mike Biggs)

"The Jesus You Can Know (I)—Who Is Jesus?"

* John 1:1–18

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 and encourage wine for those who take part in Communion. For those with conscientious convictions against the use of wine, however, we offer grape juice, which is contained in the inner circle of the communion trays. The cups containing wine are in the outer circles.

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

(Trinity Hymn. # 162)

WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Offering Meditation

In this picture of heavenly worship, the twenty-four elders, who represent the Church, cast their crowns before the throne, acknowledging that all they have has been given to them by the God who created all things. Our tithes and offerings today are, in part, an expression of the same truth: that we present to God only a portion of what we have received from Him, thus acknowledging His grace and glory.

Revelation 4:9–11 ESV

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever,¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 "Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created!"

"O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord"

(Trinity Hymnal #6)

Presentation of Offerings

(See Communion)

*** Doxology**

(Trinity Hymnal #731)

Prayer of Dedication

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

As we leave today, we revel in the love of God in Jesus, the Lover of our souls.

"Jesus, the Lord, My Savior Is"

1. Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior; hide,
'Til life's storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
Receive my soul at last.
2. Other refuge have I none,
I helpless, hang on Thee;
Leave, oh leave me not alone,
Support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
In the shadow of Thy wing.
3. Thou, O Christ, are all I want,
Here more than all I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy Name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am;
Thou art full of truth and grace.
4. Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart;
For all eternity.

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Benediction

— SERMON NOTES —

September 10, 2023

"The Jesus You Can Know (I)—Who Is Jesus?"

(Mike Biggs)

John 1:1–18

Introduction:

What does Jesus the Word reveal to us?

I. Jesus reveals the truth about *God*, vv. 1-3, 14, 18.

A. As Word.

B. As Son.

II. Jesus reveals the truth about *life*, vv. 4, 5, 9.

A. A world having died.

B. A life well lived.

III. Jesus the Word reveals the truth about *grace*, vv. 10-14, 16, 17.

A. The reason for the Fall.

B. The heart of the Father.

— FOR YOUR PERSONAL DEVOTION —

Points of Application:

Memorable Illustrations:

Evaluation:

Questions for Further Study:

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...

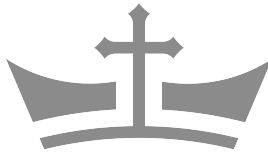
- adding people (incorporation)
- building people (edification)

CoreValues (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



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