

# CHRIST

— THE KING —

The Lord's Day, Sunday, December 24, 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

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## Call to Worship

*We rehearse in our call to worship the worship of Christ in heaven, recorded in Revelation, and praising Him for opening the seals of (ratifying) the New Covenant, symbolized by a scroll, thus bringing to fulfillment all of God's covenant promises.*

### Revelation 5 [in the following exchange] <sup>ESV</sup>

Leader: Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that He can open the scroll and its seven seals.

Men: Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.

Women: 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 call all of those involved in our worship today, including the angels and saints above, and ultimately all creation, to worship the One to whom all our praise is due: Christ, the King.*

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

(Trinity Hymnal #218)

# WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

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## \* Reading from the Law

*God expects the citizens of the Kingdom to humble themselves and be servants. This is true greatness.*

**Matthew 18:1–6** ESV

<sup>1</sup> At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” <sup>2</sup> And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup> and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>5</sup> “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup> but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

**Mark 9:33–37** ESV

<sup>33</sup> And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” <sup>34</sup> But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup> And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

**Silent Confession of Sin**

**Corporate Confession of Sin**

*We acknowledge our sin as we point each other to the comfort of the gospel of the Christ who has come.*

**"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"**

*(Trinity Hymnal #197)*

# WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## Assurance of Pardoning Grace

*We share in the humiliation and suffering of Christ in this life, so that we also share in His resurrected glory.*

### **Philippians 3:7–11; 20, 21** ESV

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.  
8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Leader: This is the gospel.

**Congregation: Hallelujah!**

### \* Hymn of Assurance

*We not only pay attention to ("Hark!"), but also rejoice in the herald (announcement) of the angels to the shepherds, good news to both them and us.*

**"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"**

*(Trinity Hymnal #203)*

## *WE PRAY FOR EACH OTHER*

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### **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*

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### **Sermon**

*(Mike Biggs)*

**"The Jesus You Can Know (XV)—'Unto Us a Child Is Born'"**

\* Luke 2:1–20

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God**

## *WE COMMUNE WITH OUR LORD*

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### **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.*

**"The Lord Has Heard and Answered Prayer"** (Trinity Hymnal #29)

## *WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD*

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### Offering Meditation

*Like the wise men, our worship includes the giving of gifts to Christ.*

### **Matthew 2:11** ESV

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.

**"Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor"** (Trinity Hymnal #230)

**Presentation of Offerings** (See Communion)

\* **Doxology** (Trinity Hymnal #731)

### Prayer of Dedication

## *WE RESPOND TO THE WORD*

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*We close today's worship with a song that reflects on the grand juxtaposition of the Gospel: that He before whom angels fell came in the form of a servant, to serve and save His people*

**"Silent Night, Holy Night!"** (Trinity Hymnal #210)

### Benediction

# — SERMON NOTES —

December 24, 2023

"The Jesus You Can Know (XV)—'Unto Us a Child Is Born'"

(Mike Biggs)

Luke 2:1–20

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Introduction:

*What does the setting of Jesus' birth teach us about the Kingdom of God?*

I. The Kingdom of God exemplifies humility.

A. Tribute for the Emperor.

B. A manger for the King.



II. The Kingdom of God *exalts the humble*.

A. The wise men.

B. The shepherds.

III. The Kingdom of God *embodies service.*

A. A Savior:

B. Christ the Lord.

# — FOR YOUR PERSONAL DEVOTION —

Points of Application:

Memorable Illustrations:

Evaluation:

Questions for Further Study:

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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...

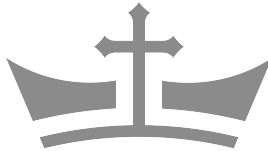
- adding people (incorporation)
- building people (edification)

**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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