



CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, July 15, 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

It is fitting for the righteous to rejoice in the Lord and give Him thanks (verse 12), because although He is shrouded in darkness so that we cannot know His ways completely, yet we have confidence because righteousness and justice are the foundations of His rule (verse 2).

Psalm 97 ^{ESV}

- 1 The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!
- 2 Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him
and burns up his adversaries all around.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 All worshipers of images are put to shame,
who make their boast in worthless idols;
worship him, all you gods!
- 8 Zion hears and is glad,
and the daughters of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O LORD.
- 9 For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 O you who love the LORD, hate evil!
He preserves the lives of his saints;
he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light is sown for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Hymn of Praise

Drawn from Psalm 97, which we have just heard, this hymn joyfully proclaims God's sovereignty and the justness of His rule. We call each other to rejoice in the wise rule of God, even though its wisdom is sometimes shrouded in darkness.

* "Jehovah Reigns; Let Earth Be Glad" (Trinity Hymnal #63)

We Acknowledge Our Sin

* Reading from the Law

Since all authority comes from God, we are to honor human authorities, within limits, despite the fact that they are often sinful in the exercise of that authority.

Exodus 22:28 ^{ESV}

You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people.

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

The emphasis in our confession today is on our failure to submit to God's authority as it is mediated by admittedly imperfect human authorities. That imperfection often provides a ready excuse for the rebellion against God that is ultimately behind that failure.

Corporate Confession: O God, our most merciful, sovereign Lord, we humbly confess that we, like sheep, have gone astray; we have each of us turned to his own way. We have neglected to recognize your absolute authority in our lives by rebelling in many ways against those to whom you have delegated that authority. We have disrespected those in positions of authority in government. We have failed to take heed to the admonitions of church officers. We have failed adequately to care for and listen to elderly parents. In these and many other ways, we have offended your holy law and, like Israel of old, rejected you as King over us. But you, O Lord, are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness. Remember your covenant, O our God, remember that we are weak and sinful, and by your mighty power grant to us not only pardon for these and our other transgressions, but also the resolve, vision, and strength to obey you and all the authorities you institute, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We rejoice in the ASSurAnce of forgiveNeSS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

The demonic powers who stand against us, constantly accusing us before God, are sometimes in the New Testament designated "rulers, authorities, and powers," reminding us that Satan has usurped the authority originally given to mankind in Adam. We abdicated that authority when Adam submitted to Satan in the Garden. Christ has triumphed over those powers and authorities and removed the basis of both their authority and their accusation. The gospel of salvation through Christ is rich indeed!

Colossians 2:13-15 ESV

¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

* Hymn of Assurance

We celebrate both the ability and the willingness of God to forgive us for the sake of Christ in this wonderful hymn, which we sing from the hymnal today.

“I Belong to Jesus” (Trinity Hymnal #129)

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

“Glimpses Beyond the Sun” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

* Ecclesiastes 8 ESV

¹ Who is like the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, and the hardness of his face is changed. ² I say: Keep the king's command, because of God's oath to him. ³ Be not hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand

in an evil cause, for he does whatever he pleases. ⁴For the word of the king is supreme, and who may say to him, "What are you doing?"
⁵Whoever keeps a command will know no evil thing, and the wise heart will know the proper time and the just way. ⁶For there is a time and a way for everything, although man's trouble lies heavy on him. ⁷For he does not know what is to be, for who can tell him how it will be? ⁸No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death. There is no discharge from war, nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to it. ⁹All this I observed while applying my heart to all that is done under the sun, when man had power over man to his hurt. ¹⁰Then I saw the wicked buried. They used to go in and out of the holy place and were praised in the city where they had done such things. This also is vanity. ¹¹Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil. ¹²Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him. ¹³But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God. ¹⁴There is a vanity that takes place on earth, that there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. ¹⁵And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun. ¹⁶When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep, ¹⁷then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.

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.

“Psalm 73”

1. Surely God is good
To all the pure in heart
But as for me, my feet had almost slipped
I nearly lost my grip
For I envied, the arrogant
They are free, from my burdens
2. Surely I, in vain,
Have kept my, my heart pure
And surely they are strong and free from trials
While I am so confused
Then I entered Your holy place
Then I saw their destiny
3. Surely, they're cast down
As those on slippery ground
As dreams fade when we wake, so they become
Completely swept away
In my heart I was arrogant
Like a beast before You
4. Yet always You are near
You guide me by Your Word
And always, my Lord God, You are my strength
My portion You will be
You're my refuge, my Sovereign Lord
I will sing of Your awesome deeds

*Tag: You're my refuge, my Sovereign Lord
I will sing of Your awesome deeds*

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“All for Jesus!” (Trinity Hymnal #565) vv. 1, 3

We reSpond to the grAce of the Lord

Offering Meditation

Like the wise men of old, we acknowledge the sovereignty of our King, Jesus, by presenting Him gifts of tribute as an act of worship.

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.

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

We conclude today where we began last week: acknowledging that God's plan is often counter-intuitive and enigmatic, but also that it is always good and wise.

* "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" (Trinity Hymnal #128)

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

July 15, 2018

“Glimpses Beyond the Sun” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

Ecclesiastes 8

Introduction:

Are there any indications that there is more to life than vanity?

- I. There is a glimpse of hope in the *limits to abused authority*, vv. 1-9.
 - A. An apparent endorsement of unbridled authority.

B. The glimpse: built-in limits to unbridled authority.

- II. There is a glimpse of hope in the *limits to the wicked's prosperity*, vv. 10-14.
 - A. An apparent injustice.

B. The glimpse: an ultimate justice.

- III. There is a glimpse of hope in the *limits to human autonomy*, vv. 15-17.
 - A. An apparent enigma.

B. The glimpse: a benevolent restraint.

~~For Your Personal Devotions~~

Points of Application:

Memorable Illustrations:

Evaluation:

Questions for Further Study: