



CHRIST

— THE KING —

The Lord's Day, Sunday, July 30, 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

A number of themes in our sermon passage for today come together in this psalm, which calls us to worship: the pleasure God takes in our love for and consequent hope in Him, the pleasure of praise (delighting in the beauty and glory of God), and the revelation of His rules (His Law) which informs of how to relate to Him.

Psalm 147 ESV

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

*** Hymn of Praise**

We praise the God whose beauty is displayed in all of His gracious gifts, including creation, but especially in the gift of Himself, expressed so beautifully in this verse, not included in the Trinity Hymnal, but which we will add today:

*For Thyself, best gift divine,
To our race so freely given,
For that great, great love of Thine,
Peace on earth and joy in Heaven,
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

(Trinity Hymnal #116)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

*** Reading from the Law**

The only way to gain entrance into the Wedding Supper of the Lamb is to be clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Do we take this clothing for granted?

Matthew 22:1-14 ESV

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding

feast for his son,³ and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come.⁴ Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!"'⁵ But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business,⁶ while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.⁷ The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.⁸ Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy.⁹ Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.'¹⁰ And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.¹² And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

Silent Confession of Sin Corporate Confession of Sin

This confession and prayer for mercy is offered in the context of reflection on all the factors in our lives that make such spiritual honesty and awareness difficult.

"By Thy Mercy"

1. Jesus, Lord of life and glory,
Bend from heaven thy gracious ear;
While our waiting souls adore thee,
Friend of helpless sinners, hear:
2. From the depth of nature's blindness,
From the hardening power of sin,
From all malice and unkindness,
From the pride that lurks within,

Refrain: By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord
By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord, good Lord.

3. When temptation sorely presses,
In the day of Satan's power,
In our times of deep distresses,
In each dark and trying hour.
4. When the world around is smiling,
In the time of wealth and ease,
Earthly joys our hearts beguiling,
In the day of health and peace. Refrain
5. In the weary hours of sickness,
In the times of grief and pain,
When we feel our mortal weakness,
When all human help is vain.
6. In the solemn hour of dying,
In the awful judgment day,
May our souls, on thee relying,
Find thee still our Rock and Stay. Refrain

© 2004 Greg Thompson Music. Used by permission. All rights reserved

WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

*All who believe (trust in Christ) are clothed with the righteousness of Christ and so **given** His righteousness as a gift, apart from their personal obedience to the Law. This is essential to the gospel and, as Paul points out, something to which even the Law points.*

Romans 3:21–26 ^{ESV}

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction:²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption

that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Leader: This is the gospel.

Congregation: Hallelujah!

* Hymn of Assurance

An awareness of the full seriousness of our sin can cause us to be despondent, until we realize that the provision of God in Christ and the grace associated with it abound in even greater fullness than the extent of our sin (Romans 5:15, 17, 20, 21) through the work of Christ.

"Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed"

1. Alas and did my savior bleed
Did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a fool as I?

Chorus: The strangeness of love,
my life in Your death
In Your brokenness
my wholeness revealed
Your bonds are my freedom,
Your sorrow my song
And by Your wounds I am healed

2. Was it for crimes that I have done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!
3. But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give my self away
'Tis all that I can do.

TAG: And by Your wounds I am healed.

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 Threat and the Promise of God's Presence"

* Exodus 33

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.

"God Himself Is With Us"

(Trinity Hymnal #382)

WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Offering Meditation

Our offerings today, as always, are a token of the complete offering that God requires of us: that of our whole selves, and our bodies as instruments of righteousness in service to Him.

Romans 12:1 ESV

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

"When All Thy Mercies, O My God"

(Trinity Hymnal #56)

Presentation of Offerings

(See Communion)

*** Doxology**

(Trinity Hymnal #731)

Prayer of Dedication

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

As we leave today, we meditate upon and sing of one of the most profound truths which God's Word expounds: that the God who loves us with an everlasting, unrelenting love causes that Love to triumph in and through all the trials and tribulations this world impinges upon us, **at His sovereign direction**, so that, in the end, the flow of our lives might be infinitely rich and full, in the ocean-depths of that Love.

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

(hymn of the month)

1. O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.
2. O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshines blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.
3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.
4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust lifes glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

©1997 Christopher Miner Music.

Benediction

— SERMON NOTES —

July 30, 2023

"The Threat and the Promise of God's Presence"

(Mike Biggs)

Exodus 33

Introduction:

How must we respond to the prospect and the promise of the presence of God?

I. We must *appreciate* what makes God's presence dangerous, vv. 1-6.

A. The issue of faithfulness.

B. The issue of holiness.

II. We must *anticipate* what makes God's presence *possible*, vv. 7-11.

A. God's isolation.

B. God's condescension.

III. We must *appropriate* what makes God's presence *beautiful*,
vv. 12-23.

A. The favor of God.

B. The knowledge of God.

C. The glory of God.

— 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



CHRIST
– THE KING –