



CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, August 5, 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

Life on this earth can be a fearsome place, but as we confess today as we called to worship, the only One whom we should fear is God, who defends and rescues us, and who rules over all.

Psalms 46, 47 ^{ESV}

Leader:

- 1 Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
- 2 For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
a great king over all the earth.
- 3 He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
- 4 He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

Congregation:

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- 3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Leader:

- 5 God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!

Congregation:

- 6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Leader:

- 8 God reigns over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
9 The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted!

Congregation:

- 11 *The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

* Hymn of Praise

This hymn might not seem at first glance to relate much to the themes of Ecclesiastes, but, as we will see today, its celebration of God's goodness, sovereignty, and mercy are at the heart of the faithful insights that enable joyful, fulfilled living in the context of a realistic assessment of life in this vain world. So lift up your hearts, and praise God with unbridled joy!

“Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah”

1. Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
Of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes,
Nor for help on man depend;
He shall die, to dust returning,
And his purposes shall end.
2. Happy is the man that chooses
Israel's God to be his aid;
He is blest whose hope of blessing
On the Lord his God is stayed.
Heaven and earth the Lord created,
Seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression,
Righteousness He will maintain.

3. Food He daily gives the hungry,
Sets the mourning prisoner free,
Raises those bowed down with anguish,
Makes the sightless eyes to see,
Well Jehovah loves the righteous,
And the stranger He befriends,
Helps the fatherless and widow,
Judgment on the wicked sends.
4. Hallelujah, praise Jehovah,
O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises
Of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever,
Through all ages He is King;
Unto Him, thy God, O Zion,
Joyful hallelujahs sing.

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We Acknowledge Our Sin

* Reading from the Law

There is a reason that we return to this passage so often as our reading from the Law. As we will see again in today's sermon, it penetrates to the heart of both our sinful condition before God and the essence of life before Him.

Proverbs 3:5, 6 ^{ESV}

- ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

We focus in this confession on the various effects that forgetting God has on us and our lives.

“Dear Lord, Remember Me”

1. Dear Lord, remember me, a sinner weak and vile
Full of impiety, and fraught with sin and guile
I cannot hope but in Thy blood
Remember me, O Lord, for good
2. Unable to depend on nature-strength and power
Jesus, my soul befriend, teach me to trust Thee more
Save me from sin and all its smart
O save me from my treacherous heart
3. Upon Thy oath I rest my feeble soul secure
By sin I am oppressed, but Thy salvation's sure
Though like a bottle in the smoke
I know Thy vessels can't be broke
4. 'Tis true, dear Lord, I am a sinner vile indeed!
Yet hoping in the Lamb, Who deigned for such to bleed
And while the Spirit seals my heart
My soul believes we ne'er shall part
5. Christ ever will defend the people of His choice
He loves them without end, and in them does rejoice
For them He shed His precious blood
And will present them all to God

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Assurance of Pardoning Grace

Although we often forget God, nevertheless He has remembered His covenant to redeem His people from their enemies, the greatest of which are sin and death.

Luke 1:68-79 ^{ESV}

⁶⁸“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people ⁶⁹and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; ⁷²to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, ⁷³the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

* Hymn of Assurance

The theme of this song will be shown to be eminently related to the point of today’s sermon. But in the meantime, we should take comfort from and celebrate the fact that life before God in Christ is bathed in grace.

“Coram Deo”

Moment by moment, grace after grace
Openly, honestly before Your loving face.
Living before You, day after day
All of my life embraced in Your holy gaze

Coram Deo, Coram Deo
All of my life embraced in Your holy gaze

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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

“What I Wish I’d Known When I Was Younger” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

* Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:8 ESV

¹ Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. ² Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth. ³ If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie. ⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. ⁵ As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything. ⁶ In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good. ⁷ Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun. ⁸ So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity. ⁹ Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. ¹⁰ Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity. ¹ Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; ² before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, ³ in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men

are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, ⁴and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low— ⁵they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— ⁶before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, ⁷and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. ⁸Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

Leader:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation:

Thanks be to God!

W e C o m m u n e W i t h O u r L o r d

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.

“Be Thou My Vision”

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.
3. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High king of heaven, my treasure Thou art.
4. High king of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

Public Domain. Ancient Irish hymn.

We reSpond to the grAce of the Lord

Offering Meditation

The example of this poor widow, who “cast her bread upon the waters,” should inspire us to give as she did, with perfect confidence in the One in whose arms she consciously lived.

Luke 21:1-4 ^{ESV}

1 Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, 2 and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. 3 And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. 4 For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

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 close with a prayer in which we rehearse before God the comforts and joy we receive from the reality of His providential governance of every aspect of our lives, and indeed of all things.

* “My Times Are in Thy Hand” (Trinity Hymnal #684)

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

August 5, 2018

“What I Wish I’d Known When I Was Younger” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

Ecclesiastes 11:1-12:8

Introduction:

How then do we live a wise, enlightened life?

I. We must *engage life with the confidence of faith*, 11:1-6.

A. Providence’s temptation: inertia.

B. Providence’s blessing: liberty.

II. We must *enjoy* life *within the restraints of righteousness*, 11:7-10.

A. The causes of frustration.

B. The path to joy.

- III. We must *understand* life within a *preoccupation* with God, 12:1-8.
 - A. For the sake of enjoyment.

- B. For the sake of fulfillment.

~~For Your Personal Devotions~~

Points of Application:

Memorable Illustrations:

Evaluation:

Questions for Further Study: