

CHRIST

— THE KING —

The Lord's Day, Sunday, December 22, 2024

"...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 have great reason to rejoice this morning: in Jesus Christ, the fortunes of God's people have been restored. Even if the outlook of the world looks bleak and we work to the glory of God weeping, we will reap with shouts of joy because God is at work in the world.

Psalm 126 ESV

- ¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."
³ The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad.
⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negeb!
⁵ Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
⁶ He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

* Hymn of Praise

We bid one another "Come!" into worship to behold the King of angels. Christ is the Lord and deserves all of our praise. Glory to him in the highest, and on earth we have peace with God.

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

(Trinity Hymnal #208)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

* Reading from the Law

Recognizing that all of the Law and the Prophets point to Christ is essential to understanding the Bible, and this passage is no different. Notice the specific use of gold (verse 3), frankincense (verse 34), and myrrh (verse 23) in these tabernacle instructions.

Exodus 30

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

To be in the presence of Christ is to realize our utter inadequacy of merit, and instead lean into the comprehensive, redeeming grace of Christ. This hymn highlights the fact that his grace brings the nations into his people, and his grace is why we can honor him with praise.

"How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place"

(Trinity Hymnal #469)

WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

The tabernacle and the temple are meant to point us to the greater reality of Christ's once for all atonement for our sins. He is the cornerstone, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame. Take heart, dear Christian, you are chosen and precious!

I Peter 2:4–6 ESV

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.⁶ For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

Leader: This is the gospel.

Congregation: Hallelujah!

* Hymn of Assurance

Though the title and the first half of each verse highlight Christ's humiliation, notice how the second half of each verse reveals a greater glory and exultation. Our assurance is in this twofold reality: Christ is our humble representative and he is our exalted king.

"Who Is This, So Weak and Helpless"

(Trinity Hymnal #239)

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

(John Robert Biggs)

"The Most Wonderful Gift Ever Given"

* Matthew 1:21–2:15

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.

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone
Snow had fallen
Snow on snow, snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter, long, long ago
Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ
Enough for Him whom cherubim
Worship night and day
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay
Enough for Him whom angels fall down before
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore

Angels and archangels may have gathered there
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air
But only His mother in her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss

What can I give Him
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb
If I were a wise man, I would do my part
Yet what I can, I give Him
Give my heart

Songwriters: Christina Georgina Rosetti / Becky Mcglade © Boosey & Hawkes Music

WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Offering Meditation

All this month we will use this Scripture to remind us that the One who was born for us is a King, and that as such our treasures belong to Him.

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."

"All for Jesus!" (Trinity Hymnal #565)

Presentation of Offerings

* Doxology (Trinity Hymnal #731)

Prayer of Dedication

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

In our final hymn, we celebrate the entire story of our redemption through Christ: His humble birth, obedient life, glorious exaltation, and faithful raising of us to be kings under and with Him.

"Once in Royal David's City" (Trinity Hymnal #225)

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...

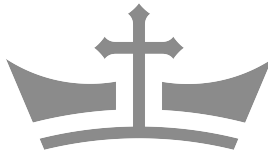
- adding people (incorporation)
- building people (edification)

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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