

CHRIST

— THE KING —

The Lord's Day, Sunday, August 3, 2025

"...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

These calls to worship are, in the book of Revelation, the response to the declaration of the universal redemption of people from all nations by the Lamb, in fulfillment of the promise to Abraham which Paul called "the gospel" (Galatians 3:8).

Revelation 5:8–14 ^{ESV}

Leader: And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying,

*"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,*

*¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."*

*¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures
and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads
and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice,*

Congregation: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

All: To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"

Leader: Amen!

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

* Hymn of Praise

We praise the God whose ways, though often inscrutable to us, are exceedingly wise and higher than all our ways.

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

(Trinity Hymnal #38)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

* Reading from the Law

One of the most important responsibilities of the people of God is to remember His dealings with them throughout redemptive history and the lessons learned thereby. We miss these lessons unless we understand that their history is our history. But we still need to remember, and we tend to forget.

Deuteronomy 8:2–5 ^{ESV}

"And you shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. 3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. 4 Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. 5 Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you."

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

This confession is an adaptation of Psalm 51, David's model confession after he had committed sin with Bathsheba. Interestingly, in it he insightfully asserts that God does not really desire the sacrifices or offerings of the Mosaic Law, even though they were commanded, but instead a repentant and contrite heart, the very point we have seen in the contrast between the Old Testament shadows and the New Testament reality.

God, Be Merciful to Me (Psalm 51)

I. God, be merciful to me;
On Thy grace I rest my plea
Plenteous in compassion Thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within;
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

2. My transgressions I confess;
Grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace,
And provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgement just;
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

3. I am evil, born in sin;
Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art,
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow.

4. Broken, humbled to the dust
By Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice,
And in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face,
Blot them out in boundless grace.

5. Gracious God, my heart renew,
Make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee,
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart,
Steadfast make my willing heart.

6. Sinners then shall learn from me,
And return, O God, to Thee
Savior all my guilt remove,
And my tongue shall sing Thy love
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,
And my mouth shall praise accord

WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

Jesus Christ defeated Satan and his minions and saved His people by fulfilling the demands symbolized in the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and atoning for the guilt flowing from our violation of the moral Law, a salvation that is received simply by trusting in what He has done.

Colossians 2:11–15 ^{ESV}

"In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 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.

Leader: This is the gospel.

Congregation: Hallelujah!

* Hymn of Assurance

We celebrate our membership in the one people of God, and the blessings of that unity.

"We Are God's People"

(Trinity Hymnal # 355)

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)

God's Beautiful Bride (Ephesians) VI: "Babel in Reverse"

* Ephesians 2:11–3:13

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.

"Jesus, Where'er Your People Meet"

(Trinity Hymnal #377)

WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Offering Meditation

One of the principal ways we respond to God's deliverance of us from death is to present offerings to Him "in the presence of all His people."

Psalm 116:12–14 ESV

*¹² What shall I render to the Lord
for all his benefits to me?
¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord,
¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.*

"What Shall I Render to My God?"

(Trinity Hymnal #637, v. 1,5)

Presentation of Offerings

* Doxology

(Trinity Hymnal #731)

Prayer of Dedication

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

During our time in Ephesians, we will have occasion to sing this hymn more than once as we celebrate God's beautiful Bride.

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

(Trinity Hymnal #345)

Benediction

— SERMON NOTES —

August 3, 2025

God's Beautiful Bride (Ephesians) VI: "Babel in Reverse"

(Mike Biggs)

Ephesians 2:11–3:13

Introduction:

What must we understand about our relationship to God as His people?

I. We must understand that there is only one *people of God*.

A. Old Testament (Covenant) token.

B. New Testament (Covenant) reality.

II. We must understand that there is only one *plan of God*.

A. The “mystery” of the plan.

B. The purpose of the plan.

III. We must understand there is only one *covenant with God*.

A. Promise.

B. Law.

C. Presence.

— 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...

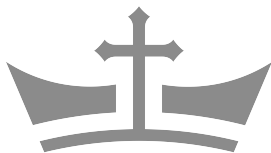
- adding people (incorporation)
- building people (edification)

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



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