



CHRIST

— THE KING —

The Lord's Day, Sunday, December 21, 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

The angels' message is both a proclamation and an exhortation: "Glory to God in the highest!"

Luke 2:13, 14 *ESV*

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

* Hymn of Praise

We call each other, and indeed every person, in whatever category or estate, including the angels, to come and worship Christ today.

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

(Trinity Hymnal #218)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

* Reading from the Law

The central command here is to heed, to harken, to the Word that God speaks to those who owe Him their worship and are the objects of His tender mercy and care. This command is sobering, for it comes with a warning. We can respond with faithful, grateful, and discerning hearts, or with the hardness of heart that rejects God's amazing grace and rushes to destruction.

Psalm 95:6–11 *ESV*

*"Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!*

⁷ *For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.*

Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ *do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,*

⁹ when your fathers put me to the test
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart,
and they have not known my ways."
¹¹ Therefore I swore in my wrath,
"They shall not enter my rest."

Corporate Confession of Sin

We appeal to Christ to come and deal with our sin and our sins as only He can, providing ransom, release from bondage, His presence, and an eternal inheritance.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

(Trinity Hymnal #194)

WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

These words never grow old, for they are as true and as wonderful now as when they were originally spoken by the heavenly host.

Luke 2:10, 11 ^{ESV}

"And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Leader: This is the gospel.

Congregation: Hallelujah!

* Hymn of Assurance

*We call each other in this hymn to "hark," that is, to pay attention to, the herald, the proclamation, the **gospel**, that the angels sing, since to ignore it is death, but to harken unto it is life eternal.*

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

(Trinity Hymnal #203)

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)

An Orientation to the Celebration of Christmas"

* Luke 1

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.

"Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord" (Trinity Hymnal #26)

WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Offering Meditation

We join the wise men in worshipping Jesus now with our offerings of love and adoration 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."

"Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning" (Trinity Hymnal #206,
w. 1,3)

Presentation of Offerings

*** Doxology**

(Trinity Hymnal #731)

Prayer of Dedication

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

*We celebrate the humble way that the unspeakable gift of God in Christ was and is given to all who will receive it. As you sing the last verse of this hymn, make it your prayer of reception of this most profound of gifts, and revel in the eternal life, the presence of God **with you**, that your reception brings to your experience. **Merry Chrisitmas!!***

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

(Trinity Hymnal #202)

Benediction

— SERMON NOTES —

December 21, 2025

"An Orientation to the Celebration of Christmas"

(Mike Biggs)

Luke 1

Introduction:

What does the proper celebration of Christmas (worship) require?

I. The celebration of Christmas requires *remembrance of God's promises.*

A. The Law and the Prophets.

B. The Covenant(s).

II. The celebration of Christmas requires *preparation for God's grace*.

A. The preparatory ministry of John.

B. The proclamatory ministry of the Church.

III. The celebration of Christmas requires *submission to God's Word*.

A. Submission begins with faith.

B. Faith overflows in proclamation.

— 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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