

The Lord's Day, Sunday, February 18, 2024

"...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 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

Call to Worship

God calls us to praise Him not only because of His mighty acts on our behalf, but also because He tests our faith in order to bless us in the end.

Psalm 66:1-12

¹ Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
² sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!
³ Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.
⁴ All the earth worships you
and sings praises to you;
they sing praises to your name." Selah
⁵ Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.
⁶ He turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.
There did we rejoice in him,
⁷ who rules by his might forever,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—
let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah
⁸ Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
⁹ who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.
¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
¹¹ You brought us into the net;
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;
¹² you let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.
Prayer of Adoration and Invocation
* Hymn of Praise

The factor that makes faith such a powerful thing is the faithfulness of the One who is the object of our faith.

* Reading from the Law

Faith means "leaning not unto our own understanding." God leads us through faith, because this is what it means to "acknowledge Him in all our ways.

Proverbs 5:5, 6 ESV

- ⁵ Her feet go down to death; her steps follow the path to Sheol;
- ⁶ she does not ponder the path of life; her ways wander, and she does not know it.

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

The central feature of this psalm is the affirmation that God is the sinner's only refuge and hope, meaning that trust in HIs "unfailing love" is the only means of salvation.

Responsive reading; Psalm 13

(Trinity Hymnal p. 787)

We refoice in the Assurance of Forgiveness

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

The "great cloud of witnesses" of Hebrews 11, the great "Faith Chapter," all knew what it was to wait in faith for the promises of God to be fulfilled, things that were no yet ween but anticipated because of God's Word. The same is true for us, who have yet to experience the full realization of God's Kingdom.

Hebrews 11:1, 2, 8-16 ESV

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as

in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ¹⁴ For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

Leader: This is the gospel. Congregation: Hallelujah!

* Hymn of Assurance

The heart of this hymn of confession is the expression of faith in Christ as our only hope, but also Christ as our reliable and certain hope.

"Laden with Guilt and Full of Fears"

Laden with guilt and full of fears, I fly to Thee, my Lord, And not a glimpse of hope appears, But in Thy written Word The volumes of my Father's grace Does all my griefs assuage Here I behold my Saviors face In every page.

This is the field where, hidden, lies The pearl of price unknown That merchant is divinely wise Who makes the pearl his own Here consecrated water flows To quench my thirst of sin Here the fair tree of knowledge grows, No danger dwells within. This is the judge that ends the strife, Where wit and reason fail My guide to everlasting life Through all this gloomy vale Oh may Thy counsels, mighty God, My roving feet command, Nor I forsake the happy road That leads to Thy right hand.

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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 Jesus You Can Know (XX)— 'Jesus's Attitude toward Faith'"

* Matthew 8:5–13

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.

"God My Earnest Voice I Raise"

(Trinity Hymnal #608)

WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Offering Meditation

Faith in this promise is a powerful motivation to give. Faith is the key.

Luke 18:28-30 ESV

And Peter said, "See, we have left our homes and followed you." ²⁹ And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, ³⁰ who will not receive many times more in this time, and in the age to come eternal life."

"Be Thou My Vision"

Presentation of Offerings

* Doxology

(See Communion) (Trinity Hymnal #731)

(Trinity Hymnal #642)

Prayer of Dedication

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

This hymn proclaims and celebrates the faith that produces a life dedicated to God and ready to endure whatever sacrifice such dedication requires, in faith anticipating the glory that is to come at the end of the journey.

"Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken"

Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow Thee. Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my all shall be. Perish every fond ambition, All I've sought or hoped or known. Yet how rich is my condition! God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, They have left my Savior, too. Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue. O while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might, Foes may hate and friends disown me, Show Thy face and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me, 'Twill but drive me to Thy breast. Life with trials hard may press me; Heaven will bring me sweeter rest. Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me While Thy love is left to me; Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me, Were that joy unmixed with Thee. Go, then, earthly fame and treasure, Come disaster, scorn and pain In Thy service, pain is pleasure, With Thy favor, loss is gain I have called Thee Abba Father, I have stayed my heart on Thee Storms may howl, & clouds may gather; All must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation Rise o'er sin and fear and care Joy to find in every station, Something still to do or bear. Think what Spirit dwells within thee, Think what Father's smiles are thine, Think that Jesus died to win thee, Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Haste thee on from grace to glory, Armed by faith, and winged by prayer. Heaven's eternal days before thee, God's own hand shall guide us there. Soon shall close thy earthly mission, Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days, Hope shall change to glad fruition, Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

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Benediction

-Sermon Notes -

February 18, 2024

"The Jesus You Can Know (XX)— 'Jesus's Attitude toward Faith'" (Mike Biggs)

Matthew 8:5–13

Introduction:

What is Jesus's attitude toward personal faith?

I. Personal faith receives the blessing of Jesus, vv. 5–7.

A. An indiscriminate blessing.

B. An accommodating blessing.

II. Personal faith receives the respect of Jesus, vv. 8-10.

A. A faith of unusual strength.

B. A faith of unusual understanding.

III. Personal faith receives the *inheritance* of Jesus, vv. |1-13.

A. Not biological descent.

B. Not covenant membership.

- 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):

- *I. Knowing* truth from God (Scripture)
- 2. Being right with God (Justification)
- Living life for God (Sanctification) 3.

Goals (what we seek to accomplish):

- 1. Worship—People experiencing and being attracted to and trained in the enjoyment of God
- Fellowship—People displaying and enjoying genuinely loving 2. and giving relationships/Christian community
- Christian Education—People being confronted with and oriented 3. 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



405.237.9CTK | ctknorman.org | office@ctknorman.org