

The Lord's Day, Sunday, July 23, 2023

"...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

This call to worship incorporates all the themes we will see in Exodus 32: the futility of idolatry, God's works on behalf of His people (including as priest, through Jesus), and His righteous judgment of sin.

Psalms 96 ESV

- ¹ Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!
- ² Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!
- ⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.
- ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.
- ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!
- ¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."
- ¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
- ¹² let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
- ¹³ before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.
- He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

* Hymn of Praise

Echoing our call to worship, we praise the God of righteous judgment and of refuge for all who truly seek Him.

"O Lord, Most High, with All My Heart"

(Trinity Hymnal #48)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

* Reading from the Law

The only acceptable sacrifices and offerings are those offered as God has prescribed, ultimately, and at our stage of redemptive history, those offered through Christ. As our text here makes clear, those offerings cannot be simply ritual, but must involve submission and obedience to Christ as Covenant Lord.

Isaiah 1:10-17 ESV

Silent Confession of Sin Corporate Confession of Sin

This confession and prayer for forgiveness is a frank evaluation of the state into which all of us find ourselves, apart from the grace of God in Christ.

"A Sinner's Cry"

- Hear, gracious God, a sinner's cry For I have nowhere else to fly My hope, my only hope's in Thee O God, be merciful to me To Thee I come, a sinner poor And wait for mercy at Thy door Indeed, I've nowhere else to flee O God, be merciful to me
- To Thee I come, a sinner weak And scarce know how to pray or speak From fear and weakness set me free O God, be merciful to me! To Thee I come, a sinner vile Upon me, Lord, vouchsafe to smile; Mercy, through blood, I make my plea O God, be merciful to me

- To Thee I come, a sinner great And well Thou knowest all my state Yet full forgiveness is with Thee O God, be merciful to me To Thee I come, a sinner lost Nor have I aught wherein to trust But where Thou art, Lord, I would be O God be merciful to me
- 4. To glory bring me, Lord, at last And there, when all my fears are past With all Thy saints, then, I'll agree God has been merciful to me

TAG: God has been merciful to me

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WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

True repentance (as the following verse, verse 19 here, indicates) always results in God's assurance of acceptance, forgiveness, and cleansing through the irrefutably sufficient work of Christ our High Priest.

Isaiah 1:18 ESV

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

Leader: This is the gospel. Congregation: Hallelujah!

* Hymn of Assurance

An awareness of the full seriousness of our sin can cause us to be despondent, until we realize that the provision of God in Christ and the grace associated with it abound in even greater fullness than the extent of our sin (Romans 5:15, 17, 20, 21) through the work of Christ.

"Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord"

(Trinity Hymnal #465)

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 Alternative to Sabbath Rest" (continued) * Exodus 32

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.

"Before the Throne of God Above"

(see insert)

WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Offering Meditation

Our offerings today, as always, are a token of the complete offering that God requires of us: that of our whole selves, and our bodies as instruments of righteousness in service to Him.

Romans 12:1 ESV

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

"All for Jesus" Presentation of Offerings

* Doxology

(Trinity Hymnal #565) (See Communion) (Trinity Hymnal #731)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

As we leave today, we meditate upon and sing of one of the most profound truths which God's Word expounds: that the God who loves us with an everlasting, unrelenting love causes that Love to triumph in and through all the trials and tribulations this world impinges upon us, **at His sovereign direction**, so that, in the end, the flow of our lives might be infinitely rich and full, in the ocean-depths of that Love.

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

- O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, That in thine ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be.
- O light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; My heart restores its borrowed ray, That in thy sunshines blaze its day May brighter, fairer be.
- O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, And feel the promise is not vain, That morn shall tearless be.
- 4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
 I dare not ask to fly from thee;
 I lay in dust lifes glory dead,
 And from the ground there blossoms red
 Life that shall endless be.

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Benediction

(hymn of the month)

"The Alternative to Sabbath Rest" (continued)

(Mike Biggs)

Exodus 32

Introduction:

What must we do to avoid the corruption and turmoil which contrast with Sabbath rest?

I. We must avoid the foolishness of unfaithfulness.

A. The foolishness of impatience.

B. The foolishness of idolatry.

II. We must apply the examples of priesthood.

A. The counterexample of Aaron.

B. The model example of Moses.

C. The supreme example of Christ.

III. We must affirm the seriousness of sin.

A. To God.

B. For us.

- 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)
- 3. Living life for God (Sanctification)

Goals (what we seek to accomplish):

- *I.* 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

