



CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, July 3, 2016

“...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 gray 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.

We encourage parents to involve children as soon as possible in the worship service. In consideration of other worshippers, we request parents with children not yet ready for unobtrusive participation in worship to utilize the nursery or, if necessary, the cry room. A nursery is available for children ages 3 months to 3 years during all Sunday morning activities.

We Approach the Lord

Prelude

Call to Worship

Praise is due to God especially in Zion, since that is the Mount upon which His temple was built, and which became a synonym for His dwelling place, Jerusalem. In this era of redemptive history,

Zion and Jerusalem refer to the Church, the new Temple in which God dwells by His Spirit. The fact that praise is due to God from His Church, as this psalm declares to us, inclines and obligates us to praise Him now.

Psalm 65 ^{ESV}

Leader:

- ¹ Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed.
² O you who hear prayer,
to you shall all flesh come.

Congregation:

- ³ When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.
⁴ Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell in your courts!
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple!

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

Hymn of Praise

In our opening hymn we call each other to praise the Lord, while acknowledging that we do so in the context and surroundings of His people, whom He has redeemed.

“O Praise Ye the Lord” (Trinity Hymnal #361)

W e A c k n o w L e d g e O u r S i n

Reading from the Law

God's people were constantly tempted to worship and seek the presence of God in their own way and the places of their choice and convenience. These were most often “high places,” reflecting man's sinful tendency to try to climb back up to heaven and the dwelling

place of God on His own terms, to re-enter the Garden as it were, since Eden was on a mountaintop. This is what the building of the Tower of Babel was. God requires that we seek reconciliation with Him and His Presence only on His terms and in His place. In the Old Testament this was the Temple which He established in Jerusalem. As we have seen, after Christ's Ascension and the pouring out and indwelling of the Holy Spirit on and in God's people, this place is now the New Temple, the place of God's presence, the Church. This is why our confession states that salvation is ordinarily impossible outside of the Church.

Deuteronomy 12:1-14 ESV

¹ "These are the statutes and rules that you shall be careful to do in the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess, call the days that you live on the earth. ² You shall surely destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. ³ You shall tear down their altars and dash in pieces their pillars and burn their Asherim with fire. You shall chop down the carved images of their gods and destroy their name out of that place. ⁴ You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way. ⁵ But you shall seek the place that the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there. There you shall go, ⁶ and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. ⁷ And there you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the Lord your God has blessed you.

⁸ "You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes, ⁹ for you have not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹⁰ But when you go over the Jordan and live in the land that the Lord your God is giving you to inherit, and when he gives you rest from all your enemies around, so that you live in safety, ¹¹ then to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name dwell there, there you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, and all your finest vow offerings that you vow to

the Lord. ¹² And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male servants and your female servants, and the Levite that is within your towns, since she has no portion or inheritance with you. ¹³ Take care that you do not offer your burnt offerings at any place that you see, ¹⁴ but at the place that the Lord will choose in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I am commanding you.

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

We focus in our corporate confession today upon our sin of failing to love other believers as we are commanded, and ask God's help to do so unto the building of His kingdom.

Corporate Confession: Oh Covenant Lord, who has called out a people for your very own, loved them and given yourself for them, and lavished upon them the abundant gifts of your grace, we confess our self-centered failure to love our neighbors as ourselves, thereby expressing our lack of love to you, our Creator. But today we especially lament our sin in failing in our even greater responsibility to love our covenant brothers and sisters, fellow members of Christ's body, the Church. We have hated some of them in our minds, thus murdering them in our hearts. We have gossiped, slandered, and stolen from them. We have cast unfair aspersions on them so as to place ourselves in the best light. We have sacrificed their reputations in order to make a name for ourselves. We have committed adultery in our hearts with their spouses, and coveted their possessions and talents. We have envied their prosperity and delighted in their adversity. We have utterly failed to support them, enhance their material and spiritual good, sacrificially meet their needs, and encourage them in their trials. All this we have done because we have in our hearts the seeds of constant sin and rebellion, and deserve your wrath and curse. But oh our God, we despise these our sins, and repent once again of them, seeking the grace freely given to us in your Son, who gave His life to redeem us and all these, whom we have failed to love as He did, from our sins and their ultimate penalty. Grant us forgiveness we pray, not because we have earned it, but because of your steadfast love. For the sake of your great Name, give us the grace we need, according to the power that you work in us, your people, to demonstrate your beauty to a watching world as we

renew and express in deeds of love and mercy our commitment to each other, and through it our love and commitment to you, that all may know that you alone are Lord of Heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

We rejoice in the ASSurAnce of forgiveNeSS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

The atonement of Christ for our sins, loving God, and loving our brothers and sisters in Christ are all bound up together, as this passage reminds us. The Gospel is about loving the Church.

1 John 4:7-21 ESV

¹ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Hymn of Assurance

Perceiving our abject failure to love as we ought can make us dejected. But this celebration of the adequacy of Jesus should encourage us all, as together we celebrate the Gospel of God's grace.

“Poor Sinner, Dejected with Fear”

1. Poor sinner, dejected with fear,
Unbosom thy mind to the Lamb;
No wrath on His brow He does wear,
Nor will He poor mourners condemn;
His arm of omnipotent grace
Is able and willing to save;
A sweet and a permanent peace
He'll freely and faithfully give.
2. Come just as thou art, with thy woe,
Fall down at the feet of the Lamb;
He will not, He cannot say, “Go,”
But surely will take out thy stain
A fountain is opened for sin,
And thousands its virtues have proved
He'll take thee, and plunge thee therein,
And wash thee from filth in His blood.
3. The soul that on Jesus relies,
He'll never, no never deceive;
He freely and faithfully gives
More blessings than we can conceive;
Yea, down to old age He will keep,
Nor will He forsake us at last;
He knows and is known by His sheep;
They're His, and He will hold them fast.

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We prAy for eAch Other

Prayers of Intercession

(The minister will lead us in prayer, taking requests from individuals.)

We heAr inStruction from the Lord

Sermon

“I Love the Church” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

Psalm 122 ^{ESV}

- 1 I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”
- 2 Our feet have been standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem!
- 3 Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together,
4 to which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
- 5 There thrones for judgment were set,
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
“May they be secure who love you!
- 7 Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers!”
- 8 For my brothers and companions’ sake
I will say, “Peace be within you!”
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good.

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 wine and encourage those who take part in Communion to take this. For those with conscientious convictions against the use of wine, however, we offer the option of grape juice, which is contained in the inner circle of the communion trays. The cups containing wine are in the outer circles of the trays.

"Psalm 73"

CH: I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

I rejoiced when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

1. Our feet were standing in your gates, Jerusalem.
Jerusalem, built as a city firmly bound as one,
To which the tribes, the tribes of the LORD, go up —
A decree for Israel — to praise the name of the LORD.
For the thrones there for judgment sit: thrones for David's house!
Chorus
2. Pray now that peace may be upon Jerusalem!
May those who cherish you have full security.
Peace be within your walls, safety in your towers.
For my friends' and brothers' sake, I'll say, "Peace be in you."
For the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good!

Chorus x2

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“Blessed Be the Tie that Binds”

1. Blessed be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like that to that above.
3. We share each other's woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.
6. From sorrow, toil and pain,
And sin, we shall be free,
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

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We reSpond to the grAce of the Lord

Offering Meditation

The covenant people's love for each other in the early Church resulted in a willingness to give without reservation to meet each others' needs. They brought their offerings and "laid them before the apostles' feet." In other words, their giving in this regard was conducted as a part of formal worship. We do the same today as we give.

Acts 4:32-35 ESV

³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵ and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Presentation of Offerings

See Communion

Doxology (Trinity Hymnal #731)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

We reSpond to the Word

We close our worship today with this always beautiful expression of appreciation for the Bride which Christ has won and transformed, the images of which are drawn from the description of the New Jerusalem in the book of Revelation. Pay particular attention to the last verse and make it your prayer today.

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” (Trinity Hymnal #345)

Presentation of Mercy Ministry Offerings

(during hymn)

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)

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

How can you be a part of all this?

SERMON NOTES

July 3, 2016

“I Love the Church” (Rev. Mike Biggs)

Psalm 122

Introduction:

What does it mean to love the church?

I. Loving the Church means *committing ourselves to her*, vv. 1, 2.

A. Delight in the Church.

B. Presence in the Church.

II. Loving the Church means *appreciating the blessings from her*, vv. 3-5.

A. Communion.

B. Worship.

C. Authority.

III. Loving the Church means seeking *the welfare of her*, vv. 6-9.

A. Peace.

B. Security.

— **For Your Personal Devotions** —

Points of Application:

Memorable Illustrations:

Evaluation:

Questions for Further Study: