

CHRIST

- THE KING -

The Lord's Day, Sunday, October 1, 2023

"...taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ..."

WE APPROACH THE LORD

Call to Worship

We are called as we approach our worship today to consider the goodness and the greatness of God's works of creation, and His blessing of His creatures through them.

Psalms 104 ESV

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, you are very great!
You are clothed with splendor and majesty,
- 2 covering yourself with light as with a garment,
stretching out the heavens like a tent.
- 3 He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters;
he makes the clouds his chariot;
he rides on the wings of the wind;
- 4 he makes his messengers winds,
his ministers a flaming fire.
- 5 He set the earth on its foundations,
so that it should never be moved.
- 6 You covered it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
- 7 At your rebuke they fled;
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight.
- 8 The mountains rose, the valleys sank down
to the place that you appointed for them.
- 9 You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.
- 10 You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills;
- 11 they give drink to every beast of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
- 12 Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;
they sing among the branches.
- 13 From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
- 14 You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may bring forth food from the earth
- 15 and wine to gladden the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine

- and bread to strengthen man's heart.
- 16 The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
- 17 In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has her home in the fir trees.
- 18 The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.
- 19 He made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.
- 20 You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the beasts of the forest creep about.
- 21 The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.
- 22 When the sun rises, they steal away
and lie down in their dens.
- 23 Man goes out to his work
and to his labor until the evening.
- 24 O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 25 Here is the sea, great and wide,
which teems with creatures innumerable,
living things both small and great.
- 26 There go the ships,
and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.
- 27 These all look to you,
to give them their food in due season.
- 28 When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
- 29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
- 30 When you send forth your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.
- 31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works,
32 who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke!
- 33 **I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;** [congregation]
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
- 34 **May my meditation be pleasing to him,**
for I rejoice in the LORD.

[Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more!]

[Bless the LORD, O my soul!]

[all]

Praise the Lord!

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND INVOCATION

* Hymn of Praise

We begin our worship praising and thanking God for the beauty and goodness of His creation which blesses all of His creatures in manifold ways.

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

(Trinity Hymnal #116)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

* Reading from the Law

Human enjoyment, even of material prosperity and abundance, is not bad or sinful as long as it is rooted in a fundamental delight in the One who blesses mankind with such things.

Psalm 37:4 ESV

Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

We ask for God's mercy as we confess the sins with which we wrestle as fallen people, including the idolatry which so easily accompanies material blessing.

By Thy Mercy

1. Jesus, Lord of life and glory,
Bend from heaven thy gracious ear;
While our waiting souls adore thee,
Friend of helpless sinners, hear:

2. From the depth of nature's blindness,
From the hardening power of sin,
From all malice and unkindness,
From the pride that lurks within,

Refrain: By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord
By thy mercy, O deliver us, good Lord, good Lord.

3. When temptation sorely presses,
In the day of Satan's power,
In our times of deep distresses,
In each dark and trying hour.
4. When the world around is smiling,
In the time of wealth and ease,
Earthly joys our hearts beguiling,
In the day of health and peace. Refrain
5. In the weary hours of sickness,
In the times of grief and pain,
When we feel our mortal weakness,
When all human help is vain.
6. In the solemn hour of dying,
In the awful judgment day,
May our souls, on thee relying,
Find thee still our Rock and Stay. Refrain

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WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

God's salvation is the renewal of all of His creation—a fact which affirms its essential goodness—through the redemption of mankind, God's image-bearers who represent the rest of creation and whose redemption and endowment with the status of sonship effects and ensures the redemption of all of creation, with the capacity to enjoy God properly through its enjoyment.

Romans 8:18–25 ^{ESV}

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Leader: This is the gospel.

Congregation: Hallelujah!

* Hymn of Assurance

We rejoice as we sing that Jesus is not only able to save those who will turn to Him, but abundantly willing..

"Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners!"

(Trinity Hymnal # 498)

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 (IV)—'The Man Christ Jesus' (#1)"

* John 2:1–12

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.

"My Soul, Bless the Lord!"

(Trinity Hymnal #126)

WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Offering Meditation

For the second week in a row, we focus on this passage as we prepare to present our offerings to God, as it affirms that our sacrifice of some of the gifts with which God has blessed us does not negate the fact that those blessings continue and even increase as a result of our giving, thus confirming their essential goodness.

Mark 10:28–30 ESV

Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.

"Now Thank We All Our God"

(Trinity Hymnal #98)

Presentation of Offerings

(See Communion)

*** Doxology**

(Trinity Hymnal #731)

Prayer of Dedication

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

We close our worship today where we began, by calling all of creation to thank and adore the loving Creator who has fashioned such a beautiful world, both blessing His creatures and revealing His glory through it.

"Let All Things Now Living"

(Trinity Hymnal #125)

Benediction

— SERMON NOTES —

October 1, 2023

"The Jesus You Can Know (IV)—'The Man Christ Jesus' (#1)"

(Mike Biggs)

John 2:1–12

Introduction:

How does what Jesus loves display His genuine humanity as well as His divinity?

I. Jesus's love of *life* displays His genuine humanity, vv. 1, 2.

A. A common misconception.

B. A necessary clarification.

II. Jesus' love of *people* displays His genuine humanity, vv. 3–8.

A. A common misconception.

B. A necessary clarification.

III. Jesus' love of *creation* displays His genuine humanity, vv. 9–12.

A. A common misconception.

B. A necessary clarification.

— 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...

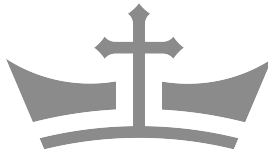
- adding people (incorporation)
- building people (edification)

CoreValues (our fundamental commitments):

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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