



CHRIST - THE KING -

The Lord's Day, Sunday, March 20, 2022

"...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 sentiment of ruthlessness with respect to the enemies of God and His people reflected in this psalm might seem harsh to us, but it is the appropriate attitude toward God's enemies, albeit with the qualification that our role with respect to the nations is not that which Israel had with respect to the inhabitants of Canaan. We minister judgment, but not through military force. Instead we proclaim God's Word, the sword of the Spirit, which naturally imparts either blessing or judgment, depending upon how individuals respond to it.

Psalm 149 ESV

1 Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise in the assembly of the godly!

2 Let Israel be glad in his Maker;
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

3 Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!

4 For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;
he adorns the humble with salvation.

5 Let the godly exult in glory;
let them sing for joy on their beds.

6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats
and two-edged swords in their hands,

7 to execute vengeance on the nations
and punishments on the peoples,

8 to bind their kings with chains
and their nobles with fetters of iron,

9 to execute on them the judgment written!
This is honor for all his godly ones.

Praise the LORD!

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

* Hymn of Praise

We call each other to "rise and bring peculiar honors" to the One who is destined to reign over, through, and with us over all that God has created as His representative image-bearers.

"Jesus Shall Reign"

(Trinity Hymnal #441)

WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN

* Reading from the Law

There is no place in God's army for anyone who is not willing to sacrifice whatever is required for the sake of the Kingdom (cf. Genesis 19:12-26; Luke 9:57-62), nor is anyone who is afraid of the world.

Deuteronomy 20:1-9 ^{ESV}

Silent Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin

In this confession we acknowledge our failure to depend upon God and believe His Word to us concerning His adequacy, and we prevail upon Him to inculcate His Law into our hearts, which is the tool of dominion and the path to blessing, as we shall see in today's sermon.

Almighty Father, Who by your will and for your glory formed us and everything else in all creation, Who upholds all things by the power of your Word, and Who has graciously and lovingly preserved your people and provided for our needs, we confess our constant failure to trust You and rely upon your goodness. Instead of leaning wholly upon You, we have thought and acted upon the meager understanding afforded by our limited human perspectives. Rather than acknowledging You in all our ways, we have forgotten You and turned to our own way, the way that seems right unto a man, but leads to death. We have sinned against You constantly by presuming to own ourselves and

our ways, in violation of your holy command to trust You with all of our hearts. With renewed faith we cast ourselves upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness. In abject sorrow we confess our unbelief, and in heartfelt and sincere repentance ask You for the grace of faith, wrought by your Holy Spirit, which You have promised to give your people Israel. Write your law on our hearts, that we may adopt your heart and mind, and evermore walk in the light, as You are in the light, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.

WE REJOICE IN THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Assurance of Pardoning Grace

We hear in these passages, from the letters to the churches from Christ in the book of Revelation, promises of the gospel to believers, believing being synonymous with "conquering," for it is through the blood of Lamb and the word of our testimony that we conquer our and God's enemies (Revelation 12:11).

Revelation 2:7, 26, 27; 3:5, 12, 21 ^{ESV}

⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God!

²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father:

⁵ The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

¹² The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Leader: This is the gospel.

Congregation: Hallelujah!

* Hymn of Assurance

Empowered by the Gospel of Peace, we proclaim our determination to follow our Lord to victory; over our sin and all His and our enemies, as the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

"Lead On, O King Eternal"

(Trinity Hymnal #580)

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. These will be confidential if desired. Everyone who is not receiving prayer will participate in corporate prayer as the worship leader mentions a list of topics. As each item is mentioned, the congregation should respond with, "We offer these our prayers," followed by a brief silent, individual prayer.

WE HEAR INSTRUCTION FROM THE LORD

Sermon

(Mike Biggs)

"A Blueprint for Conquest"

* Exodus 23:20–33

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.

"O Praise Ye the Lord"

(Trinity Hymnal #361)

WE RESPOND TO THE GRACE OF THE LORD

Offering Meditation

Our offerings today are a token of our intention to offer our whole selves and lives to God, "which is our spiritual worship."

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.

"Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured"

(Trinity Hymnal #429)

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 by expressing and delighting in the heart of the covenant relationship of God to all who truly know Him.

"Be Thou My Vision"

(Trinity Hymnal #642)

Benediction

— SERMON NOTES —

March 20, 2022

"A Blueprint for Conquest"

Exodus 23:20–33

(Mike Biggs)

Introduction:

How must we apply the meaning of covenant in order to realize God's plan for Kingdom victory?

- I. We must follow Christ Jesus *without any reservation*, vv. 20-22, 25-28, 31.
 - A. The Angel of the Lord.
 - B. The role of the Law.
 - C. The blessings of obedience.

II. We must resist insidious *compromise with the world*, vv. 23-25a, 32, 33.

A. The fallacy of pluralism.

B. The seduction of idolatry.

III. We must *accept gradual progress as a necessity*, vv. 29, 30.

A. The tendency to impatience.

B. The necessity of gradualism.

C. A focus on the future.

— FOR YOUR PERSONAL DEVOTION —

Points of Application:

Memorable Illustrations:

Evaluation:

Questions for Further Study: