



Order of worship

Christ the King Sunday

November 22, 2020

Call to worship (*Psalm 100*)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God. It is the Lord that made us, and we are God's; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter the Lord's gates with thanksgiving, and the Lord's courts with praise. Give thanks to the Lord, bless God's name.

For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.

Call to confession

We are often oblivious to God's near presence, consumed by our own interests and unable rightly to see and treat others. Our God is merciful, eager to forgive, seeking us out and able to transform. Confident in the character and power of God, we boldly confess our sin.

Prayer of confession

On this Christ the King Sunday we confess, Lord of all, that we have often put other priorities ahead of our loyalty to you. We focus on ourselves and become unable to tend to those in need. We obsess on our own desires to the detriment of your creation. We dismiss those without earthly status and seek out those we think can benefit us. We forget that following you means caring for those most in need of compassion and relief. Forgive us, merciful Lord. Free us from a past we cannot change. Turn us toward you. Shape us into a people who better resemble you, Christ our King, Jesus our servant Lord. Amen.



Assurance of pardon

God tell us, "I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep." Christ alone is judge and Christ is merciful, eager to forgive and abounding in steadfast love. Friends, believe the good news and be at peace, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Prayer for illumination

Almighty God, as the days grow shorter and our world continues to wrestle with all manner of suffering, we long to know your near and healing presence. Send your Spirit to grant us the faith and hope to recognize you, worship you, follow you and heed your Word. Amen.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of faith *(from a Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.
Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:
preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives,
teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children,
healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,
Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.
God raised this Jesus from the dead,
vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal.



Call for the offering

In recognition of our loyalty to our God and our gratitude for all God has given to us, we make our offering with joy and thanksgiving. Let us seek to show our love for the God who relentlessly seeks us out and tenderly cares for us through the gift of our tithes and offerings.

Prayer of dedication

Holy One, we pray for a spirit of wisdom, the wisdom to know whom to follow and how to treat one another, the wisdom to steward the gifts you have entrusted us in ways that bring you glory, the wisdom to worship you and you alone. Take these gifts, we pray, bless and use them that the least of these members of your family would be fed, visited, cared for and clothed in your name. Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

Gracious God, when the Son of Man comes in glory and judges between the nations, where will we find ourselves? Among the sheep or the goats? We recognize our limited ability to know when we see you and we fail to notice you in the least of the members of your family. We pray for the eyes to see you and the faith to follow you. We ask again for your mercy when our loyalty to lesser gods obscures your image in us and blinds us to your image in others.

We reflect this Lord's Day on a season of much turmoil and pain. There are many known to us and countless known only to you who suffer in body, mind and spirit, yearning to be sought out and cared for with compassion. We pray that those far off would be gathered close and welcomed home. We ask that the injured have their wounds bound. We lift up to you the grief-stricken and those who cannot quiet their fears and worries. We trust your word, that you yourself will seek out the vulnerable, that you yourself will bring justice, that you yourself will heal and make whole those who are hungry, lonely or imprisoned. We ask for the wisdom and courage to participate in the outpouring of your compassion on the world you so love.

Even as we recognize the great needs and the deep hurt around and within us, we know too the joy of your sure presence and the gift of this earthly life. We do not want to neglect to give thanks for the beauty of the sunset, the love of friends and family, the pleasure of music, the enjoyment of our daily bread. There is more than we can name for which to rejoice, give thanks and sing.

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As we reflect on what has been, we look in hope to what will be, trusting that you are unquestionably Lord of all and Christ is indeed king. There is nowhere we can flee from your Spirit, no centimeter of creation unredeemed, no person beyond your purview of care or transformation. In this wonderful knowledge we live our lives and make our prayer in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who taught us to say when we pray, *Our Father...*

Charge and benediction *(from the Book of Common Worship)*

Go forth into the world in peace.
Be of good courage.
Hold fast that which is good.
Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted.
Support the weak.
Help the afflicted.
Show love to everyone.
Love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

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Liturgy written by Jill Duffield
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