

November 22, 2015 Christ the King Sunday

Invitation to Worship (For the Assisting Minister; Also printed in the bulletin)

Please lead the Invitation to Worship by being familiar with the text and looking up and, as needed, referring to the monitor screen at the rear of the room. We hope this example will help worshipers to also raise their heads and use the overhead screens at the front of the sanctuary.

Say to the congregation,

Please join me in the Invitation to Worship.

Day and night around the throne they never stop singing:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, who is, and who is to come.**

Our God reigns!

**Robed with majesty and armed with strength,
God holds our world and our lives securely.**

This is the God to whom we have given our lives—

the God who deserves our worship and our praise!

Welcome (Scott)

- General welcome
- Christ the King Sunday: exploring power and authority and the role of a king. (Slide image for reflection)
- Re-Introduce change in Prayers of the People (New format started Sept. 27)
 - Written prayer slips are available; you may mark them Confidential if you want it shared with a pastor only.
 - The prayer slips will be shared with the pastors and the prayer team as you designate (They will not be specifically verbally included in today's prayers.)
 - The Assisting Minister will open the time of prayer with a general introduction and invitation to pray one's thanksgivings and concerns either silently or aloud.
 - The pastor will conclude the time of prayer.
- "After a time of silent reflection, we will continue in worship."

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Scott)

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE (Instructions for Assisting Minister, which are new as of Sept. 27)

Sequence in worship: *The ushers will bring forward the Communion elements and the offering plates. The offering plates will have any prayer requests that worshipers have written. The Assisting Minister (AM) and pastor will receive these from the ushers and hold them while the pastor prays, thanking God for both the monetary gifts and the prayer requests.*

After the prayer, the AM and pastor will place the plates and Communion elements on the Communion Table/Altar and then the AM will introduce the Prayers of the People as he or she and the pastor stand behind the table.

Introduction/Instructions for the congregation: *Say something like the following in your own words to introduce the prayers:*

- We are invited into a time of prayer to express our thanks, to pray for concerns of ourselves and others for the church, for the world and for those in need.
- We are invited to include our joys and thanksgivings, our sorrows and burdens as we pray either silently or aloud.
- If you pray aloud, please conclude your petition with the phrase, “Lord, in your mercy, to which we will all respond, “Hear our prayer.”

Begin the time of prayer using these or similar words:

- Lord, hear us as we offer you our joys and thanksgivings and the concerns of our hearts. . . *or*
- Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray, so we offer these petitions in his name. . .
or
- God our Creator, guide us by your Holy Spirit, that these prayers may serve your will and show your love for the world. . . *or*
- Mighty God, whose Word we trust and whose Spirit enables us to pray, hear our requests as we pray them silently or aloud. . .

Our petitions should include prayers for the Church universal and for TLPC; for community or local concerns; for peace and justice in the world and for those who govern; and for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Please be prepared to pray for one of these areas if you do not hear it offered aloud by a TLPC worshiper. You of course may include additional prayers of your own during the time of open prayer.

The pastor will conclude the time of prayer

FIRST READING (Lector)

Revelation 1:4b-8

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL READING (Scott)**

John 18:33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Dedication (Joanie—after offering)

(Pray also to acknowledge the written prayer slips)

Invitation to the Table: (Joanie)

Benediction (Scott)