

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO
MARK



LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE. LOVE ASHEVILLE.

Sunday, 7 March 2021, 10:00 AM

citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH

ASHEVILLE

“Jesus knew himself as at once the goal of history and servant of history.... The kingdom [of God] is the supreme embodiment of the divine gracious purpose.”

– Geerhardus Vos

“If you read the Bible, no one responded to Jesus moderately. Everyone’s response to Jesus is extreme. They either ran away from him in fear, or they murderously turned on him and tried to kill him, or they fell down and surrendered everything to him. But no one ever liked Jesus, thinking, ‘He’d be a wonderful example to base my life on.’ No one ever responded to him moderately. They only responded to him in extremes. Which means that he must have been an outrageous person. Which means he must have been an offensive person. Because only an incredibly offensive person would get themselves killed and worshiped at the same time.”

– John Stott

“The hands of the king are healing hands, and thus shall the rightful king be known.”

– JRR Tolkien

“No minister of an earthly sovereign would ever announce, ‘So and so has become king! If it please you, accept him as your king!’ Such a blasé, noncommittal declaration certainly did not characterize the news of a Roman emperor’s ascension to the throne. The very announcement that so and so is king contains an implicit demand for submission. Jesus’ announcement that God is king contains the same absolute demand. The divine rule blazed abroad by Jesus, therefore, requires immediate human decision and commitment: repentance, submission to God’s reign, and trust that the incredible is taking place.”

– David Garland,

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

In the Name of God the Father

Words: Henry Allon, 1863 | Music: The Ironsides, 2011; Songs for Supper

1. In the name of God the Father,
In the name of God the Son,
In the name of God the Spirit,
One in three, and three in One;
In the Name which highest Angels
Speak not ere they veil their face,
Crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy,"
Come we to this sacred place.

Lo, in wondrous condescension,
Jesus seeks His altar-throne;
Though in lowly symbols hidden,
Faith and love His presence known.
When the Lord His temple visits,
Let the listening earth be still;
May the Spirit's sweet indwelling
Each believing heart fulfill.
2. Here, in figure represented,
See the passion once again;
Here behold the Lamb most Holy,
As for our redemption slain;
Here the Savior's body broken,
Here the blood which Jesus shed,
Now the offer of communion,
Into lasting joy be led.

Here shall highest praise be offered,
Here shall meekest prayer be poured,
Here, with body, soul, and spirit,
God incarnate be adored.
Holy Jesus, for Thy coming
May Thy love our hearts prepare;
Thine we pray would have them wholly,
Enter, Lord, and tarry there.

CALL TO WORSHIP

from *Psalm 24*

Minister: Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory?

All: **The Lord Almighty – he is the King of glory.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF ADORATION

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

Words: Henry F. Lyte, 1834 | Music: Nathan Partain, 2000 UBP

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who, like me, his praise should sing?
Come and worship, come and worship,
Praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise him for his grace and favor,
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him, still the same forever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Glorious in his faithfulness.
3. God our Father tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Widely as his mercy goes.
4. Angels, help us to adore him,
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Praise with us the God of grace!

Minister: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

All: **Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Almighty God

Lyrics and Melody by All Sons & Daughters | © 2014 Integrity's Praise! Music, Integrity's Alleluia! Music

1. Almighty God to you all hearts are open
Search and know our thoughts and anxious fears
Wash us in the fountain of your mercy
Come with your light, we cannot hide from you.
2. Almighty God to you all hearts are open
With gratitude we raise our song to You
Come and fill the praises of your people
In grace and truth, you make us new again.
3. Almighty God to you all hearts are open
We long for more than what this world provides
No shallow spring will ever satisfy us
But your river deep, floods over everything.
4. Almighty God to you all hearts are open
You take away our sickness and our sin
Oh Lamb of God we gather at your table
In bread and wine, you have supplied our needs.

Chorus: Hallelujah (3x)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Psalms 71:3

“Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Minister: Almighty God, we confess that although we willingly say that “Jesus is King,” we often fail to bow our knees before him. Instead, we grant our allegiances to the relationships and material goods of this world.

All: **In your mercy, hear our prayer of confession.**

Minister: You have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned him Lord of all.

All: **We confess that we have often failed to bow before him
or acknowledged his rule in our lives.**

We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give him glory.

**Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people,
obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who rules the world and is head of the church, his body.**

(You're invited to take a moment of silent confession.)

Minister: Breathe in us, O Holy Spirit, that our thoughts may all be holy.
Act in us that our works, too, may be holy.

All: **Work in us that we may love only what is holy.
Strengthen us to defend all that is holy; guard us, then, that we always may be holy.**

Minister: Grant us the humility to bow before you, the Ruler of all nations, so that we may be loyal servants in your kingdom.

All: **Through your son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Colossians 1:13-14

Through the crucified body and blood of Christ the King, we have been given a pardon from God:

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins”

HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE

Laden with Guilt and Full of Fears

Words: Isaac Watts, Music: Sandra McCracken | ©2001 Same Old Dress Music (ASCAP)

Laden with guilt and full of fears,
I fly to Thee, my Lord,
And not a glimpse of hope appears,
But in Thy written Word
The volumes of my Father's grace
Does all my griefs assuage
Here I behold my Savior's face
In every page.

This is the field where, hidden, lies
The pearl of price unknown
That merchant is divinely wise
Who makes the pearl his own
Here consecrated water flows
To quench my thirst of sin
Here the fair tree of knowledge grows,
No danger dwells within.

This is the judge that ends the strife,
Where wit and reason fail
My guide to everlasting life
Through all this gloomy vale
Oh may Thy counsels, mighty God,
My roving feet command,
Nor I forsake the happy road
That leads to Thy right hand.

Mark 15:1-15

1 And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. **2** And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." **3** And the chief priests accused him of many things. **4** And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." **5** But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

6 Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. **7** And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. **8** And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. **9** And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" **10** For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. **11** But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. **12** And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" **13** And they cried out again, "Crucify him." **14** And Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." **15** So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

The Lord Is My Joy

Words/Music: Nathan Partain, 2008 from Jaywalker, track released 2015

The Lord is my joy, the Lord is my joy,
When all that I have is lost, I find the Lord is my joy.

The Lord is my strength, the Lord is my strength,
When I am too weak to go on, I find the Lord is my strength.

My all in all is he, my healing King,
My Master tends to me, for him, my soul shall sing.

The Lord is my rock, the Lord is my rock,
When all I have faith in fails, I find the Lord is my rock.

The Lord is my delight, the Lord is my delight,
Above all the joys of life, I find the Lord is my delight.

My all in all is he, my breath, my song.
In him, I have everything; to him, my soul belongs.

THE BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

SENDING HYMN

Power to Redeem

Songwriters: Paul Mabury, Justin Ebach, Lauren Daigle © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, Warner/Chappell Music, Inc.

You take what is
And you make it beautiful
When love floods in
We're restored forevermore

No guilt competes
With innocence crucified
No grave can hold
what your grace has justified

Refrain: With breath that brings the dead to life
With words that pierce the dark with light
Only by the blood are we set free.
With mercy strong to carry shame
And nail it to a tree You alone
Hold the power to redeem.

Bridge: Rejoice oh child of God
Lift your eyes to see
With every morning light
Again we are redeemed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SENDING

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!