

St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church

Sunday, November 25, 2012

Christ the King

Last Sunday of End Times Series B

Sermon by Pastor Anthony E. Schultz



John 27:27-31

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” ³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?” ³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” ³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” ³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

People of God – rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

It happened about two weeks ago – somebody broke into the Tower of London. They didn’t steal the Crown Jewels or any of the other one of a kind – irreplaceable artifacts. But they did steal some of the keys that control access to the Tower’s drawbridges and some other areas. They said the robbery was possible because security procedures had not been properly followed. The Tower is supposed to be guarded by Yeoman Warders – commonly known as Beefeaters! Kings and Queens – Arch-dukes and Princesses – how many are there? There seems to be some debate. If you try and Google the answer – you will find sites where the answer is – *if there is one – that’s one too many! I want to be free from the oppression of any King or Queen.* I used to be quick to say – there aren’t very many Monarchs today – but the fact is – if there is ball park 190 nations in the United Nations – there are somewhere near 46 monarchies! There are hereditary – constitutional and absolute monarchies. There are 7 semi-hereditary – partially elected monarchies. There are 15 commonwealth

monarchies – like Queen Elizabeth the Second. And there are 2 elected monarchies – two people who get elected to be the King! Today as we celebrate the last Sunday of the Church Year – we celebrate the Bible Truth:

Jesus Is Christ Our King!

1. Jesus is not an earthly king

2. Jesus is the King of everything!

Today is the last Sunday of the Church Year. We have had Final Judgment, Saints Triumphant and now Christ the King. We have been reminded again and again that this world is only temporary and people are very breakable. At any moment our life – our time of grace could come to an end. At any moment – when we least expect it – the skies could be torn open and there will be Jesus coming in the clouds – with all his holy angels around him. The dead will be raised from their graves and we will be taken home to heaven! It will be the most wondrous and glorious moment of all!

The part of God’s Word we are concentrating on today is from the Gospel of the disciple Jesus loved – the Gospel of John. This was the last Gospel to be written. Matthew, Mark and Luke are all written from slightly different points of view – all recording what Jesus did and said. The Gospel of John very much talks about what Jesus said. There are chapters and chapters of what Jesus said in the upper room – and on the way to the Garden of Gethsemane – what Jesus said when he was on trial before the Sanhedrin and today on trial before Pontius Pilate – the Roman Governor.

The Roman Governor Pontius Pilate is mentioned in Luke chapter **13.1 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.** This is yet again – the opinion of the law – karma – as some call it. This hard wired attitude in the hearts of people. Do something bad – I don’t care how sneaky you are – do something bad – and something terrible will happen to you. If it’s something really terrible – you will die in a terrible way. Do good stuff – and everything will come up roses! We were watching a cooking contest the other day and one of the contestants said – because he had worked making food for homeless and poor people – he was sure to win. He had done so much unselfish good – karma meant he would win the \$10,000 prize. He deserved it! 2,000 years ago – people told Jesus about the horrible murder of people from Galilee at the temple – offering sacrifices to the LORD when they were hacked to death by Roman soldiers. Their blood was literally mixed with the blood of their sacrifices. Certainly

these people must have been bad people – to meet such a wretched end! And so? ² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Again it is not for us to judge our neighbor!

Christ the King humbled himself to pay for my sins and your mistakes. There was a headline this week – a lady – just 24 years old--who ran a daycare in her home – apparently had 7 small children entrusted to her. She put a pan on the stove – a pan of oil and started heating it – when she decided to go out shopping – leaving 7 little children all alone. The house caught fire – 4 little people perished and 3 were hurt. Again – how do you decide what is a just punishment for such a thoughtless and careless mistake? For the death of one child she was given an 80 year sentence. When she is 54 years old – she might be paroled. Otherwise she will be in prison until she is 104! They also fined her \$10,000. I don’t understand that either! How would you live with the guilt – the regret and the remorse? Every time you thought of those little people – wouldn’t your heart ache? Jesus was condemned for all the mistakes that make the headlines in the newspapers. Jesus died for our secret sins – the ones we aren’t even aware of. Jesus died for every mistake – every single one!

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” ³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?” ³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” Jesus didn’t look like a King. He looked like a man who had been beaten up! Jesus had been arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane – tied up as if some sort of dangerous criminal then pushed from one place to the next – by Annas – then by Caiaphas. When Caiaphas said to Jesus, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” “He is worthy of death,” they answered. Then they spit at his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, “Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?”

Matthew 26:63f This was not the worst! Roman soldiers would scourge Jesus – weave the crown of thorns and pound it on his head – and finally literally crucify him. The worst was not the physical suffering. The worst was the heartache of Jesus’ Heavenly Father turning His back on his innocent Son – who claimed blame and complete responsibility for all our failures and mistakes! What really hurt Jesus was not some punch by some professional soldier. What hurt Jesus was his Father’s white hot anger against my sins! That’s what hurt. And Jesus took that hurt to forgive me and you!

³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” Jesus’ kingdom is not of this world! We are strangers here – sojourners – people just passing through. Heaven is our home! In the coming weeks people work harder than ever to try and make this the best Christmas ever! People literally in their jammies – literally went to stores after midnight – literally pushing and shoving and knocking people down – in order to get the I-Pod, the Smart phone; the flat screen HD 3D surround sound TV with the biggest screen! From now until New Year’s we will see luxury cars with huge ribbons and bows – that themselves cost hundreds if not thousands of dollars – just for the ribbon. People will hang lights all around their homes – inside and outside. They will bake and decorate cookies and the proverbial fruit cakes. There will be gallons of Eggnog mixed with brandy served in little cups shaped like moose! There will be office parties where people will drink too much and kiss people they are not supposed to kiss. All this to celebrate the birth of the Christ-child.

Jesus’ kingdom is not of this world! Sometimes it’s tempting to get all concerned about earthly kingdoms. To literally lose sleep over government run health care or the fiscal cliff or how the Iranians are smuggling rockets through Egypt into the Gaza Strip to lob at Israel where my cousin Jodi lives! One could argue there has never been a government worse than Caesar literally throwing Christians to the lions. And yet – Jesus did not go to Rome to battle Caesar. What did Jesus say? Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and give to God what belongs to God. Pay your taxes. The apostle Paul – inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote: **“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live**

peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men – the testimony given in its proper time. 1 Timothy 2:1-6 Again – Jesus died to save us. That’s the point. That’s the main point. That’s the only point. Jesus died to save us! Presidents come and Presidents go. Governors come and Governors go. Pastors come and Pastors go. Jesus stays the same. The same yesterday and today and forever. His forgiving love as sure right now as the essential black Friday afternoon when he died to save us!

Jessica – the woman who went shopping while her house burned down – never intended to hurt the little people 16 months to 3 years old. She never meant to hurt them. And when she realized what she had done – Jessica tried to run away. She fled some 7,000 miles to Nigeria. Now you would think – if a person ran that far – you would get away. But she didn’t! It took about a month for the authorities to find her – and to bring her back to Texas. I think I can imagine being so desperate to try and run away from your painful hurtful mistakes that you would think Nigeria would be far enough – but it never is! The only way to remove the crushing unbearable load of all our sins – is to put them at the foot of Jesus’ cross. The Son of Man is the only one that can take all those sins away!

³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords. Jesus’ kingdom will last forever! There is a furniture store called Penny Mustard – because the owners – when they were little on the farm were paid a penny for each mustard weed they pulled out. Penny Mustard Furniture sells furniture – hand made solid wood furniture made of oak and cherry wood. Their furniture is guaranteed for 287 years! Not 285 and not 290 but 287 years! That’s nice – but I don’t get it! If I buy their furniture – and hand it down to my grandchildren – and they give it to my great-grandchildren – that’s still nowhere near 287 years! And the Penny Mustard boys are going to be nowhere near – should their furniture fall apart almost but not quite 300 years from now. What then? The older you get – hopefully – the more you realize all that really matters is Jesus’ forgiving love. All that matters is that

Jesus died and rose again to forgive me. All that really matters is Jesus is Christ the King – my forever Savior and Redeemer. Let us worship him today and forever. Amen!

Go God alone all glory!

Pastor Anthony E. Schultz

