

Lessons for Christ the King Sunday

November 20, 2022

Psalm 46 ~ *Christ the King is all powerful and all protecting for his people.*

Malachi 3:13-18 ~ *On judgment day the distinction between the wicked and the righteous will be seen.*

OR Jeremiah 23:1-6 ~ *God promised to send a righteous King because the shepherds had scattered His flock.*

Colossians 1:13-20 ~ *By His conquest on the cross, Jesus has won us for His kingdom of grace.*

Luke 23:27-43 ~ *Upon His unlikely throne, Jesus was mocked by some, but acclaimed as King by one.*

GATHERING THE TEXTS: Waiting Eagerly

The cry of the church is “Come quickly, Lord Jesus!” The thief on the cross heard the words of promise: “Today you will be with me in paradise.” Identified by the title above his head, Jesus was proclaimed the King of the Jews. By giving his life for the sins of the world, he has become King of kings and Lord of lords. He has claimed us as his treasured possession and rescued us from the kingdom of this world to make us citizens in his Kingdom of light. We join the eager cry of the saints in glory, “Come quickly, Lord Jesus!”

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE: When time passes slowly, Lord, give me confidence. Because you have promised the fulfillment of your Kingdom, build up my trust that I may live each day as a citizen of heaven. Then I will eagerly look for your return and urgently share the news of your Kingship! Amen.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: As citizens of Christ's Kingdom, all that we have is dedicated to the task of gathering those scattered in the domain of darkness and declaring the good news of His redemptive victory over sin and death. We rejoice in His promise that we have a place with Him in Paradise!

OFFERING PRAYER: Christ our King, to You we sing
Our hymn of exaltation!
Here we bring our offering
To use in proclamation! Amen.

CONVICTION AND COMFORT: Even though we acknowledge Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords, we have lost our eager expectation of His return. We have become comfortable with the kingdoms of this world and even question whether those who serve God are any better off than those who do not. And still God says of us, “I will gather them from the places where they have been scattered and will raise up a righteous king to watch over them.” By the blood of His cross, Christ the King says to us, “Today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Questions to Consider: Where does a king get his power?

- When the righteous and the wicked are exposed, who makes the judgment?
- How do people become citizens of the Kingdom of light?
- How did the Jewish leaders and Roman leaders see “Jesus, the King of the Jews” differently?
- What made Jesus’ kingship greater than the realm of the Jews?

Bonus on next page: a poem describing the contrast between earthly kings and Christ our King

OUR LORD

We look for kings in palaces
Sitting on golden thrones
With kindly courtiers standing 'round
Speaking in royal tones.

But one there is who was a king
hanging on wooden beams
With mocking scoffers standing there
Yelling insulting screams.

He walked the path of scorn and death
Earning an honor guard
Of holy angels singing praise
Honoring Christ our Lord.

When He appears to judge this earth
Coming on clouds of light
With awe and wonder we will kneel
Worshiping Christ the King.

– *Gilbert Franke*