

The feast of Christ the King

The end of our liturgical year

Although this is a modern feast in our church

It has stood the test of time

In fact, reading the Old Testament in light of the New Testament

We see this as part of God's plan from all time

Original sin has tried to block it out

Actual sin has done much damage to God's kingdom

But the story is written

It will come to be

Our readings today all point to his kingdom

But his kingdom is not only a future kingdom

It begins here and now

Will we be His subjects?

Will we serve our King?

Or will we serve someone or something else?

The choice is ours

But as I said last week

Our choice in this life

Our actions in this life have eternal consequences

Centuries before Christ became incarnate

That is long before he took on human flesh

Daniel had a vision

In this vision, he saw the Ancient One

We see this as God the Father

Before him came one like a Son of man

In light of future events

We see this as Jesus Christ

In fact, the title *Son of man* is one Jesus used himself

This title is more than a reference to his human nature

As we see in Daniel

The *Son of Man* refers to Jesus' role as king and judge

All peoples, nations and languages will serve him

His dominion and kingship will not end

This vision of Daniel is partially fulfilled in Christ becoming man

It will be fulfilled in its entirety when he returns

The Kingdom is referred to in our Psalm today

We don't often reflect on the psalm

But they add to our understanding of Scripture

The psalter is broken down into 4 books

The psalm today is at the beginning of the 4th book

Book III is about David's kingdom
And at the end, this kingdom is destroyed
The Israelite nation is sent into exile
Book IV shows how we are to respond when the world doesn't
seem to make sense
When all we worked for seems to fall apart
When it seems as if God is silent
The LORD is King; He is robed in majesty
When it seems as if the world is falling apart
When we see Christians being persecuted
When we see militant Islam gaining the upper hand
When we see Communist leaders persecuting Christians
When we see even our own government attacking our core beliefs
Trying to force the Church to bow to their demands
This is nothing new
Earthly powers have ruled the earth for all time
Many have become powerful forces
Even becoming powerful empires that ruled much of the world
From King David to the Babylonians
The Roman and Greek empires
Powerful forces in the West and the East
The British Empire and the rise of Communism

Even American nationalism

Despite everything that has occurred and continues to occur

The martyrs and saints of every age continue to hope in faith

While walking through this valley of tears

Confident in what lies behind our psalm

The LORD is King; He is robed in majesty

This is seen in the introduction to the Book of Revelation

I am the Alpha and the Omega

The One who is and was

And the one who is to come, the almighty

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead

And the ruler of the kings of the earth

He will overcome everything

Even our sins and the result of our sins

Death itself

In this world

In this life, there will always be conflicts

There will always be challenges for ourselves and for the Church

One of these is seen in our Gospel

Pilate, representing the authority of the world

The authority of the Roman Empire

Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus' reply confuses Pilate

He does not recognize any authority outside of the physical realm

So Jesus tells him

My kingdom is not belong to this world

This does not mean his kingdom is not in this world

But that it goes beyond this world

Everything is subject to him

Things seen and unseen

Christ does not desire a political kingship

He does not desire a military kingship

He desires one thing

To be king of our hearts

For this life

And for all eternity

There are so many people and things that desire our hearts

Satan is a generous in distorting these things

So we choose to serve them

What is it that stands in the way between our heart and God?

For some it may be sports

Either playing or watching

Do the Packers or the Badgers or the Bucks replace God?

Do we ever put hunting over worshiping God?

What about shopping?

Black Friday or Cyber Monday

Have you seen the headlines the last 2 days?

Gang fight at Black Friday sale

Man punched in face pull gun on line-cutting shopper

Customers run over in parking lot

Insane battle over cell phones

Shoplifter's mace security guards

Man steals boy's shopping bag

Shopper robbed at gunpoint outside Best Buy

This is what happens when we try to replace God with things

Trying to satisfy our hearts desires with things

Get them now before they are gone

We can even be accused of not being patriotic if we don't participate

Political aspirations or parties

How often do we hear if this or that party loses or wins...

The world will collapse

As Christians, we are called to give proper perspective to the world

Not getting caught up in these distractions

We all will have a king in our lives

What or who that king is is our choice
We are called to be agents of God's kingdom
A Kingdom that is not of this world
But a kingdom that is in this world
A kingdom that calls us to holiness
To communion with God
A kingdom for the salvation of our soul
And for the salvation of the world
Anything else, we sell ourselves short
We know the story
We know the ending
Christ the King
Of eternity
Of this world
Of our individual heart
The choice is ours to make
And to live