



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Pentecost 24 **November 25, 2025**
Christ the King

Prayer of the Day

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The Holy Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Homily

I greet you in the name of Jesus our risen Saviour. Amen.

Today we come to the last Sunday of the church year. You may have started to think about the different stories and parables of Jesus we have shared from the Gospel of Luke this past year. You may have a good idea where this message should be heading. So, you think, until you heard the Gospel lesson for this morning. The lectionary takes us back one more time this year to the Passion Story and Good Friday. We once again listen to the story of the death of Jesus. We hear the hammer pounding the nails into the cross. We hear the screaming. We hear the crying. We see the painful face of Jesus being crucified on the cross. Today we may have been expecting a passage from St. Luke of love. We certainly were not expecting this. This passage.....jolts us.

And maybe that is its intent. To jolt us! To help us remember who we are! We are followers of Christ!

In Roman times, the sign on the cross which hung above the person's head indicated the crime they had committed. If someone had committed murder, the sign would say "murderer". In the case of Jesus, they could not name one crime he had committed. Pilate even asked Jesus if he was the king of the Jews and his reply was, "You say so". The worst crime they could think of was "This is the King of the Jews" to be placed above the head of Jesus.

When you hear the word king; who comes to your mind? Do you see the King of Rock and Roll; Elvis? Or do you see the King of Pop; Michael Jackson? Or does the vision of King Charles come to mind? In our world kings usually have great wealth, power and prestige. They have been honoured because of their military and political accomplishments. Most of them live in castles and palaces; they wear extravagant robes and crowns sparkling with jewels, diamonds, rubies and sapphires. The monarchy host lavish state banquets and entertains the world's rich and famous. Kings move about among the elite while commoners suffer. They have little to do with the common people of their kingdoms. And when the King or Head of State dies there is a lavish funeral; a full military funeral with a twenty-one-gun salute.

Jesus' life and ministry turned the world upside down. Instead of worldly power and wealth; castles and palaces; jewels and crowns; we find a king who is humble and came to serve others. Jesus spoke of peace and reconciliation instead of violence. He chose to mingle with the lowly and rejected; the poor and marginal of society. He had no time for the elite. He crossed boundaries and accepted women as disciples. He ate and drank with the outcast of society.

In the reading from St. Luke, we find the price for which Jesus paid to lead this life. He was despised and rejected. He was powerless. Jesus, who was innocent of all crimes, was hung on a cross between two thieves. He was mocked. "If you are who you say you are save yourself". Jesus suffered and died a horrific death on a cross. There was no State Funeral, only his friends who carried him to a tomb. This is our King!

Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, explains Christ's kingship to faithful followers who are being persecuted for their faith.

Christ is no ordinary king. As Jesus is God's son; he is everything that God is. "He is the image of the invisible God." Through him, everything in heaven and on earth was created. These include things that are visible and invisible. Christ rules over all. A king may rule over certain subjects or a geographic region. But Christ is not just ruler over some but of all.

Paul describes Christ as being the "first born of all creation". Kings and queens ascend to their thrones by genetic inheritance. They are normally descendants of a particular line of people. But Christ belongs not to a particular people but to all peoples.

The Apostle Paul time and time again explained the incredible adjustment that takes place when you become a follower of Christ. It is not simply fitting Jesus into our present way of thinking but our world view becoming Jesus in which we fit all the rest into. This is being a Christian.

We are brought back to Good Friday today and we are next to our King, Jesus on the cross. With all our faults we turn to Jesus and say, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus replies, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise" to which we can respond; "Hallelujah!"

My friends in Christ! We are Easter people! Our God forgives our sins! We have eternal life with Christ our king. Eternal life with our king; who is humble, who ate with the outcast of society, who spoke of peace, who served others, who walked with the poor and marginal, who broke the barriers of gender and who mingled with the lowly and rejected. This is our king. This is our king whom we are called to follow by doing the same. Christ is King! Christ reigns! And we can say:

"Hallelujah! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!" Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

(Copyright Administered by Augsburg Fortress SAS104065)

STTLC Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....

Mike Harrington, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Bobby Keuhl, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori, and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

J. Wilmot Harvey Educational Bursary applications for post-secondary students are available in the office and must be submitted to the church secretary by November 30th.