



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY November 26 & BEYOND

“The Meaning of Christ as King”



In response to the rising dictatorships of the first quarter of the 20th century, Pope Pius instituted by Encyclical, the celebration of “Our Lord Jesus Christ the King.”, as an October feast day. In 1969 Pope Paul VI expanded the name, and then moved it to the last Sunday of what the Romans call the Ordinary season, and what Anglicans have referred to as the Sundays after Trinity, or with the 1979 Prayer Book, the Sunday after Pentecost. One way or the other it is the last Sunday of that “season” and thus, always, the Sunday before the beginning of Advent.

Although the Anglo-Catholic community picked it up much earlier, the change to the Sunday before Advent in 1970 fit right in with the development of the change in BCP lectionary for the 1979 book. It took on the name that was already the shorthand name, The Feast of Christ the King. And that made the feast and theme available to the entire

Church. As a feast celebrating Christ Himself, the color of the day is White or Gold.

Pope Pius’ intentions were that the Sunday become a reminder that there is no true ruler but Christ, and thus he hoped that the celebration with scripture readings and sermons given might help to combat the growing influence of absolute dictators in the secular world. Although we could say that that was a time and season, from before WWI through the end of WWII, and a more modern understanding for the celebration would be more helpful (such as the humility of Jesus the King by His incarnation), I don’t see much evaporation in the various risings (and fallings) of dictators, despots, caesars, pharaohs, tyrants, tyrannizers, etc. We’re not talking here about somebody in elected office with whom you simply disagree for whatever reasons. We’re talking “leaders” who have taken to themselves a fierce stranglehold on a country, a nation, a people, forcing its people into poverty and and keeping them in ignorance. And I do not withhold such description from leaders of the Body of Christ from time to time, tragically

What then does it mean to proclaim and praise Jesus Christ as King? For this year’s Gospel reading (there are 5 different Gospel depictions of Christ as King that are available for use), we hear Jesus talking about Himself as the Son of Man when He sits on the throne of glory on judgement day. But not just about Himself alone. All the things we want JESUS to be doing as King He uses as a measuring rod for His SUBJECTS. Well, then, THAT’s a turn of events! And then comes repentance. It comes as we suddenly realize that this King wants His subjects to

reflect His Kingship in their own actions. That is, this King Jesus came to give the water and food of salvation to all who were hungry, AND he managed to provide literal water and food, sometimes miraculously, to those who were literally thirsty and hungry. He asks the same of us as His servants and subjects, and warns us that His judgment will be, if you will, a test on all that has already been presented.

There are two things, two sides of the same coin, two sharp edges to the sword that must not be overlooked: we are responsible to provide literal provision when we see it, literal visitation to those apart from us, literal welcome. AND we are to – both by word and deed - proclaim, point to, teach, pray for being drawn into, the Kingship of Christ for all those to whom we are otherwise ministering. Jesus the Messiah did not shy away from both; none of His saints shied away; none of us should ever be shy to point to the real King of all the Universe, the kings down here not withstanding.

More than simply “be prepared” for the coming of the Lord, this Gospel points to the existential: Be Prepared to Minister to Needs, both physical and of the spirit and soul. That is, be prepared at all times to share your resources and to share your Faith in Christ who is King of All. As you satisfy someone’s parched body, may you also bring satisfaction to parched souls and spirits, so that they too may stand before the King to be ushered into eternal life.

What testimony do you have already?

Father Robert G. Eaton, Interim Rector

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: Celebrating All Saints’ Day

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors’ Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel) Temporarily Cancelled

9:30a Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel) Temporarily Cancelled

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies’ Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men’s Group (Parish Hall)

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

www.allsaintschurch.org