

## Christ the King Sunday Year B

It is fitting that our first scripture lesson features the last words of David. Last words are the “red lights” that beg us to stop and listen. These are important for us to hear. They are words that introduce us to the idea that Jesus is a king in the ancient sense.

David speaks in poetic fashion. His oracle is a prophetic message from God. The message here compares the wise and godly ruler to those who went their own way disregarding God’s will. The wise are compared to the sun rising on a cloudless morning reflecting off raindrops on a grassy plain. The popular song of singer/writer Johnny Nash comes to mind ... *“I can see clearly now the rain has gone. I can see all obstacles in my way. Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind. It’s gonna be a bright (bright), bright (bright) Sun-Shiny day.”* Such optimism belongs to the resurrected Jesus whose cross was the gateway to eternal life. Such clarity of mind and heart fill the lips of King David now as he gives praise to God for the privilege to rule despite David’s own failures.

David at the end of his life could see clearly to a day when his immediate heir Solomon would sit on his throne to continue David’s heritage. Yet his message would extend to another time and not rest with Solomon or his heirs. David’s words pointed to a distant heir named Jesus, the son of David that would sit on a spiritual, heavenly throne.

Another wise message, John’s revelation, would foretell Jesus as the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, ruler of the kings of the earth. Such a vision is one that points us to Christ’s coming again. The second lesson of our lectionary brings new hope: “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

This king we celebrate today is Jesus the Christ. He was brought before the Governor Pilate as a king. Yet Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world.” The kingship Jesus brought is change we should believe in! His leadership had no political party. He spoke to the poor and taught in parables. His disciples while on earth numbered only twelve. Yet he fed the poor with the basics of bread and fish. His message encompassed the teachings of the world’s sages yet was reduced to two commandments: love God and love your neighbor.

When it came to being arrested he told his followers to put away the sword. Yet the paradox of his leadership was that he came to bring a sword and not peace. His last words echo through the ages and are recorded by more writers than any other sage. “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. Into your hands I commend my spirit. It is finished.”

What king have you heard or read that ever forgave his subjects? What king do you know fought evil with His own blood then knew when it was time to quit? Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

If only Jesus could have hung out a little longer to continue to teach us the truth of His words. Perhaps today few if any would want to be king. Perhaps the truth of Jesus words would have set the world free from kings and rulers that David saw were godless and became thorns to their people.

Today is Christ the King Sunday. Jesus is anything but a "king" because the only throne He seeks is in our hearts. This throne is the center of our being symbolized by the human heart. To make Jesus king is to honor Him with our lips and our hearts. With the vows of our lips we give Him our lives again as we say the words of our baptism. Amen.