

Christ the King – November 22, 2020

Ezechiel 34: 11-12 – 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26 – Matthew 25: 31-46

Week after week day after day, perhaps multiple times during the day, we pray that what this feast day of the Church recalls and celebrates might be accomplished. How often do we say, maybe even absent-mindedly, “Thy Kingdom come.” How much what we proclaim today – Jesus Christ as King – do we wish for or do we work for in our world as well as in our daily lives?

The Feast of Christ the King, in one way, looks forward to the future, the culmination of God’s creation, when God will be: “all in all.” So we hear from St. Matthew the description of a final judgement. But, even now, at this time, we can ask ourselves as individuals, whether we measure up to the standards of the Gospel, such as we heard. More importantly, however, in all that we hope for in our world, is the reign of God, the Kingship of Christ, what we truly desire?

Where there is hatred and injustice, do we not long for love and understanding? Where there is despair, do we long for hope? Where there is destruction, do we not long for renewal. Where there is violence, terror and war, do we not long for peace? This is striving for the Kingdom of Christ, the fulfillment of God’s plane, that we pray might be experienced even here and now.

We proclaim Christ as King, with the confident hope and trust that this will come about. This celebration today prays that the message of Christ's Gospel, Good News, will be heard – and will be lived out not only by ourselves but throughout our world.

There is no doubt that seeking to live out the Gospel is a challenge. Christ did not say that it would be easy. At times his message is rejected and even persecuted. But even in such circumstances, Jesus had declared that we are blessed.

In our world and in our lives we must persist in proclaiming Christ as King. We must proclaim that the message of his ministry, his death and his overcoming of even death in his resurrection, will be accomplished. We must live and act in such a way that Christ, and no one else, and nothing else, will triumph.

May the prayer we repeat over and over again: "Thy Kingdom come" be for us a genuine commitment in faith; may we pray these words with confidence and conviction for these words express the hope and the trust we place in our truly good and gracious god