

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

The Rev'd Dr. Gerald McDermott | Written for AnglicanCompass.com in 2017

The last Sunday after Pentecost, before the start of a new church year at Advent, is known as “Christ the King Sunday.” Here is the collect:

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

EXPLAINING THE COLLECT

What “restoration” does the collect allude to?

Why does it talk about “peoples” of the earth?

What is the relationship between the Father and the Son in the latter’s “gracious rule”?

Let me try to explain.

GOD IS KING

The Bible repeatedly declares that God will be king forever in the future (e.g., Ps 10.16; 29.10; 66.7; Jer 10.10; 1 Tim 1.17). YHWH is said to be king over his own people, including Israel’s kings, but over the nations as well (Nb 23.21; Ez 20.33; Ex 15.18). All the peoples of the world will worship him in the end (Zec 14.16).

JESUS IS KING

Jesus shares that kingship of all God’s people, the nations, and the cosmos. He is the son of David (Mt 1.1; Rom 1.3), Israel’s greatest king and the king whose line God promised would last forever (Ps 89.36). Jesus is the “Christ,” which is the Greek translation of messiah (Heb. masiach) or “anointed one.” Hebrew kings were the primary recipients of anointing.

So Jesus was the anointed king par excellence from the line of David, whose kings would be God’s “son” (2 Sam 7.14; Ps 2.7). But Jesus was the Son of God ontologically, the second person of the Trinity to whom all of David’s earthly sons pointed. Their kingships were types of the eternal kingship exercised by God the Father and delegated to the Son after the Ascension of Jesus.

KING JESUS WILL RESTORE ISRAEL & THE WORLD

One day King Jesus will renew all of this world and restore Israel to its center.

When his disciples asked him just before his ascension, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Ac 1.6), Jesus did not challenge their assumption that one day the kingdom would be restored to physical Israel. He simply said the Father had set the date, and they did not need to know it yet.

It was these sorts of indications in the gospels and Acts that caused Oxford historian Markus Bockmuehl to write that “the early Jesus movement evidently continued to focus upon the restoration of Israel’s twelve tribes in a new messianic kingdom.”

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Paul, Peter, and the writer of the book of Revelation had similar expectations. Paul uses Isaiah's prophecy of restoration in Isaiah 59 to declare that "The deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob" (Rom 11.26).

In Acts 3 Peter looks forward to "the times of restoration of all things which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from ancient time" (Ac 3.21). The word Peter uses for "restoration" is the same word (apokatastasis) used in the Septuagint (which the early church used as its Bible) for God's future return of Jews from all over the world to Israel.

In Revelation, the Lamb draws his followers to Zion in the final stage of history (Rev 12.1), and the new earth is centered in Jerusalem, which has twelve gates named after "the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel" (Rev 21.2, 12).

Evangelical New Testament scholar Scot McKnight argues that Jesus intended to renew Israel's national covenant, not found a new religion. He wanted to restore the twelve tribes, which would bring the Kingdom of God in and through Israel. By his death, Jesus believed the whole Jewish nation was being nailed to the cross, and God was restoring the nation and restoring its people.

Therefore, salvation was first and foremost for Israel, but the nations would find salvation by joining themselves to saved Israel. The apostles tell us that we gentiles are joined to Israel by the Holy Spirit when we put our faith in the Jewish messiah and are baptized into him (Acts 16.31-33; Rom 6.3-4; Rom 11.11-24).

During the times of the new heaven and earth, King Jesus will rule visibly from Israel (Rev 20.4, 9; 21.1-3). He will rule over not just individuals but "tribes and peoples and languages" (Rev 7.9).

This kingdom will have no end (Lk 1.33; Rev 11.15), but at some point, the Son will return his delegated kingship to the Father: "Then comes the end When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all" (1 Cor 15.24, 28).

Apparently, that will be the time when Jesus told his disciples he will "drink the fruit of the vine new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Mt. 26.29). One day, then, the Son will return the Kingdom to his Father and share that kingly rule with Him.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN FOR US?

First, we can know that King Jesus is ruling even now, and that even what seems terrible is sifted through his loving hands to ensure that it works for our good (Rom 8.28).

Second, we should look forward in hope to when this beautiful world is renewed and restored to a far greater glory.

Third, we can know that that future world will be a time of not only individual salvation but of glorious fellowship among different nations and peoples. While ethnic differences now cause strife, on that day they will bring joy.

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

UNDER-RESOURCED: BUILD A BUNK BED | *Saturday, December 3rd | 7:30–11:30am*

Please join us in the parking lot at St. Peter's as we join with SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE to build 40 bunk beds for local children in need.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE believes that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs and that all children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads.

Join in this special time of creating beds for deserving children, as well as the opportunity to help deliver and set up. What an amazing opportunity to share God's love this Advent season!

For questions, or more information, please contact Under-Resourced Core Captain, Freddy Branham at fbranham@echotlh.org.

DISCIPLESHIP

ACOLYTE MINISTRY

Interested in being an acolyte and helping to lead the Cathedral Congregation in worship on Sunday mornings, at weddings, at funerals, and other special services throughout the year? Learn more about our excellent acolyte ministry and how you can be part of it by contacting Acolyte Master, Cal Melton at 850.570.0208 or DrCalMelton@gmail.com.

PARISH VISITORS GUILD OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE |

The Parish Visitors Guild is a group of parish members who are passionate about coming along side those who need encouragement. It could be the loss of a loved one or job, illness, or any number of difficulties we all face. They reach out in several ways. This is a great opportunity to offer encouragement to those who truly need it.

If you are interested in being part of this vital ministry, please contact Alice@StPetersFL.com for more information.

CSI LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY TEACHING VIDEOS AVAILABLE ONLINE

During the Easter Semester, the Lay School of Theology offered *The Faith of the New Testament: God, Gospel, Mission* taught by Fr. Michael Petty. Videos of these class sessions are now available at

CharlesSimeonInstitute.com/laypersons.

YOUTH MISSIONS PROJECT: COMPLETE!

St. Peter's Middle & High Schoolers committed to donating 25 bags of clothes for Capital City Youth Services (CCYS). We are pleased to report that we met and even exceeded our goal! Thank you all for your generous donations! While we are no longer taking donations, be on the lookout for future youth missions opportunities!

MEN'S COOKOUT

TONIGHT, November 20th, 5–7:30pm | Come enjoy a beautiful fall evening at the Langford's barn at Penway Point located at *13913 North Meridian Road*. The barn overlooks the lake and has a spacious open-air pavilion creating the perfect opportunity for a fun time to catch up with one another in the great outdoors!

Mission BBQ will be served. RSVP at StPetersFL.com/MensCookout to reserve your \$10 meal. Men of all ages are invited to share in this time of fellowship!

Our speaker is our very own **FRED THOMSON**—you won't want to miss what Fred has to share!

ADVENT WREATH MAKING!

TODAY, November 20th | 10:30am

Members and friends of all ages are invited to join us on the Lawn and make a fresh Advent Wreath for your home! There will be prayer booklets to take and use at home and candles available for purchase. This is a wonderful tradition to help prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

WORSHIP

VISITING THE CATHEDRAL?

Welcome—we're so glad you're worshipping with us today! Our nursery is available during Sunday morning services for children newborn through Kindergarten. We hope you'll join us on the lawn for coffee & other refreshments between morning services! Whether today is your first time or you've been coming for awhile, we are so glad you're here!

CATHEDRAL PRAYER LIST & CARE MINISTRIES



If you have any pastoral needs or know of someone who needs pastoral care and prayer, please contact Care Ministries Coordinator, Alice Sanderson at Alice@StPetersFL.com

Please call the Cathedral Office at 850.701.0664 or email Alice@StPetersFL.com to be added to the Cathedral Prayer List. **YOU CAN ALSO SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST OR CARE MINISTRY NEED AT StPetersFL.com/PRAYER**

Military: Lucas Bell, Jose Betancourt, Lt. Col. David Chichetti, SSG Corey Daws, Lt. Col. Daniel Dean, Capt. James Dilworth, Capt. John Easterbrook Jr, Airman Drew Edwards, Sgt. Michael Gaskins, SSgt Corey Owen, Capt. Griffin Jax, Capt. Savannah B. Jax, 1st Lt. Parker Jax, Capt. Chandler B. Jax, 1st Lt. Carson Jax, 1st Lt. Rebecca Jax, Gabriel Melendez, Col. Burt Newman, Major Gen. John Richardson, Capt. Oliver Rushing, Spc. Andrew Sanderson, Lt. Cmdr. Chris Smith, SFC Dewey Spence, Lt. Patrick Swain, Capt. Parry Thomas, Lt. Cmdr. Blake Van Brunt Jr, Tommy VanLandingham MM3, Seaman Benjamin Waddill PFC John P. Warren

Parishioners, Relatives, and Friends: Greg Dean, Brady Jax, Allen Sears, Roberta & George Boyer, Courtney, Marian, Joan, Reedi Massey, Connie

CATHEDRAL OFFICES CLOSED

The Cathedral will be closed Wednesday–Saturday this week. There will not be a 12:10pm Wednesday Eucharist. The Daily Office also will not occur on those days.

FORGOT TO SUBMIT YOUR PLEDGE? THERE'S STILL TIME!

PLEASE VISIT StPetersFL.com/GIVE TO MAKE A PLEDGE, OR EMAIL ACCOUNTING@StPetersFL.com TO CONFIRM THAT YOU'D LIKE YOUR RECURRING GIFT TO CONTINUE AND/OR INCREASE.

OUR NEW BUDGET YEAR BEGAN NOVEMBER 1ST AND WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED PLEDGES FROM ABOUT HALF OF OUR ACTIVE PARISHIONERS. ST. PETER'S ONLY EXISTS BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE GENEROSITY OF HIS PEOPLE!



FINANCIAL MINUTE—WE WILL HAVE AN UPDATE TOWARD THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR

Total Operating Budget: TBA | % Collected YTD: TBA | Debt Retired in November: TBA

For more information about making a pledge, visit StPetersFL.com/Give