



The Shepherd's Voice

by Fr. Joe Rees

November 19, 2013

“The King of Our Lives”

“But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

Jesus—From the Cross. Luke 23: 34.

This Sunday is Christ the King Sunday. It's the last Sunday of the Church year that culminates the teaching and life of Christ as the Messiah, the King of the Jews, the King of Heaven. He's our King as He purchased us with His blood shed upon the Cross. In the actual moment of His precious blood streaming out of His blessed Body, He was forgiving us, pleading for forgiveness for us from the Father in heaven. At the moment of His death, and with the conquering power of His grace, that transaction was made; the laying of our sins upon His heart, the dying of our sins with His last heartbeat.

His Voice still pierces the darkness of sin today, “Father, forgive them.” Sin is heinous and ugly. The grief it gives to the sinner is overbearing and painful. The terror of sin is the resultant separation from God. The consequence of a life of sin is a horrid existence of wandering in the void, the waste places of darkness and loneliness, for eternity. In that moment on the Cross, the King of heaven and earth, speaks His indefatigable and invincible light into the lair of Satan with one simple word...’Forgiven’. That word is packed with God's power! It's God's Word of Life to us! It's God's laser of death-yielding Light into Satan's corroded and caustic heart.

“Christ the King” is my King and rules my life because He is God and has forgiven me. He knows the reformation He alone has done in my life. He sees every day the power of His Word, ‘Forgiven’, has done and is doing in my life. And

I am forever thankful. The Lord Jesus has cleansed me, made me whole and well, and continues to supply all I need to be able to live a life that is honoring His gift to me daily. There is no fear of backsliding or regression because as King, He is the center of my soul. He is the producer and basis of my thoughts. He is at the helm of my course and decisions of life. In every case, He is my King. He lives within me. And I love His outstanding work that transforms me. Why would I ever go out of His Presence to engage in the folly of evil deeds ever again!?! No, my life is dedicated to Him and honoring Him in every way possible. I love to honor my Lord and Savior! How about you?

Have you realized the power of those words from Jesus? Those deeply personal and intimate words that speak into the fiber of your being...”You are forgiven!”? All you have to do is to visualize yourself coming before the King's throne, kneel down before Him, head bowed, heart wide open, and say, “Lord Jesus, I ask you to forgive me for my sin.” A wave of His mercy will come over you. And He will lift you up. And He will touch you with His creative power and grace. He will make you a new creation right on the spot (2 Cor 5:17). His Word will be etched on your heart...”JESUS”... and you will know you've been purchased by His love and blessed by His Life within you(2 Cor 5:21). Now is the time to bow down before the throne of Christ Jesus. Now, do it now! Wherever you are as you are reading this...just bow your heart to Him, maybe even kneel down, right there in your office or home or outside in the park. I remember kneeling by my bed one night and saying those exact words, “Lord Jesus, please, please forgive me. I appeal to Your mercy. Have mercy upon me, a

sinner in Your sight!” And He did. And my whole life changed...all for His good. Thanks be to God!

We are those lost sheep, you see. We are those who “know not what we do!” But we’ve been found by Jesus! We need a Shepherd and a King! We need a Shepherd to save us out of the nasty ravines we get ourselves into and we need a King to rule our lives in a most benevolent and loving way. And we need to give Him all authority over us. True obedience to Him. I’m ecstatic that Jesus is both my Shepherd Savior and my Benevolent King! Life becomes an exercise of praising and loving Him every day. The joy is found in being nearer to Him than to anything else in the whole world. The hope for a life lived with confidence, victory, and ever increasing potential is found in merging with His pure and holy love for us. There is no blockage that He can’t

penetrate, no wall He can’t scale. Try Him. He is more than able to give His redeemed people the power and victory to overcome all obstacles. His grace is made perfect in our weakness (2 Cor 12:9) because we lean on Him and make our appeals to the throne of grace. His Kingly power is placed into our lives as we raise Him up to be the main frame and central processor of our restored lives. Jesus is our King and He lovingly rules those who submit to His kingship. Let Him be your King...the only King...today! This most excellent King calls you...’Forgiven’!

Humbly bowing before our Benevolent King,

Love in Christ,

Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers

November 24, 2013		8:30 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Dick Sholly	Frances Slaughter
Psalm Reader	Psalm 46	Paula Sholly	Petey Seibold
Second Reader	Colossians 1:11-20	Jane Rost	Jani Dubski
Intercessor		Bill Laitinen	David Archer
Lay Euch. Ministers		Jean Hawk, Doug Hall	Jani Dubski, Frances Slaughter
Acolytes		Bill Laitinen	David A (C); Damon W (T1); Kalani C (T2)
Welcomers		Jane Rost	Ted Reeves, Paula Sholly
Ushers		David Green, Jackie Lansing	Ted Vallas, Ray Seibold, April Knowles
Vestry Person of Day	Carolyn Blumberg		
Healing Ministers		Kay & Alfred Focke	Ann & JR Fox
Announcer		Judy Gillease	April Knowles
Counters			Cline Handy & Michael Murphy

Smile!

Have you scheduled your appointment for getting your picture taken yet? You can schedule the appointment online by clicking on the icon on our website or call the church office for help.

Neat idea: Traditional IRA owners must make a Minimum Required Distribution every year after age 70. That means that they need to contact their IRA custodians before the end of the year. The MRD is taxable as ordinary income. It would be a simple matter to ask the IRA custodian to transfer the funds to the church. If they transfer the MRD proceeds to the church, then the MRD is not

Advent Christmas Traditions from Around the World

Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Special programs to experience the traditions from far away places.

December 3, 10, & 17

This Week at Grace

November 19, - November 26, 2013

Tues. November 19

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing prayer and Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Fr. Joe's Teaching on Revelation

Wed. November 20

6:10 .M.
8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thurs. November 21

Fr. Richard's day off
7:00 a.m. Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Distribute Thanksgiving gift bags to
Maryland Elementary School families.
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Fri. November 22

Fr. Joe's day off
10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at CHC
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Healing

Sat. November 23

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
10:00 p.m. Praise Team rehearsal

Sun. November 24

**Last Sunday after Pentecost
Christ the King Sunday**

7:30 a.m. Spoken Eucharist Service
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with choir
9:45 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Children's Church
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with praise team

Mon. November 25

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer
6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Tues. November 26

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing prayer and Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Fr. Joe's Teaching on Revelation

Bible Readings this Weeks

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:35-43

We are using the English Standard Version of the Bible and the Lectionary from the Book of Common Prayer (Year C)

Upcoming Events

Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Service at Grace, 10:30am
Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Dinner at Grace, 11:30am
Nov. 29 Church Office Closed.
Nov. 30 Decorate the church, 10am
Dec. 5,6 & 7-Pictures taken for new directory.
Dec. 15 Angel Tree Party—2:00pm
Dec. 22 Children's Christmas program & Party
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve services—5 & 10 pm
Dec. 25 Christmas Day service—10:00am

Angel Tree Ministry Party

We will have a party for the children as they come to pick up their gifts at 2:00 p.m. on December 15th. Your financial help with the party is needed to provide stocking stuffers and refreshments for the party. We also need volunteers to help with the party. See Tina Murphy for more information.

Thanksgiving at Grace

November 28, 2013

Service at 10:30 a.m.

Followed by Thanksgiving dinner at Noon

Sign up at the welcome table on Sunday and let us know what you will bring to share for dinner. We will cook turkeys! This will be a good time with your church family. Everyone is welcome!