

Christ the King Sunday - November 21, 2021

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is clear. It will end. The Ancient One will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

9 - As I watched, an Ancient One (an Ancient of Days) took his throne.

10 - A stream of fire flowed out from his presence.

A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

13 - As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being (one like a son of man) coming with the clouds of heaven. He came to the Ancient One (the Ancient of Days).

14 - To him was given dominion and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Mark 14: 61-64 – Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am, and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'" Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death.

Cf. Revelation 11: 15 – Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

What situation(s) or circumstance(s) in your life and/or in our world make(s) you especially glad that Jesus is King and God is still on the throne? The "Ancient One" is not an "Anxious One."

Psalm 93

1 - The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

2 - Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; you are from everlasting.

4 - Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea,
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.

What images would you use to describe how mighty God is?

Mightier than . . .

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

What is your strongest response to the book of Revelation?

Do you primarily find it confusing – scary – or comforting?

“Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow”

4 - Grace to you and peace

Romans 5: 1-2 – Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand.

From him who is and who was and who is to come

5 - And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead

1 Corinthians 15: 20 – But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The ruler of the kings of the earth – “King of kings and Lord of lords”

5-6 - To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7 - Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him.

It is not that everyone will love him and place their trust in him, but everyone will acknowledge who he is.

Philippians 2: 9-11 – Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him a name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

James 2: 19 – You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe – and shudder.

8 – “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

John 18:33-37

Who actually has greater power – Pilate or Jesus?

33-34 - Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

35-36 - Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

37-38 - 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.” Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

Matthew 27: 24 – So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

Vs. “Suffered under Pontius Pilate”

Inscription at Caesarea Maritima – what happened to Pontius Pilate?