

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Christ the King (Proper 29) – November 26, 2023

“Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.”

–Psalm 95:2-3–

Imagine, if you will, a palace filled with gold furnishings. Guards are all around to make sure that the king inside is safe and protected. Inside the palace walls you will find the king. He is a confident leader, adorned in purple robes, sitting on a regal throne. On his head he wears a crown of gold and jewels. In his hand he holds a golden scepter. If the king needs to travel, he has a beautiful horse on which he rides. It’s a stately, majestic scene before you.

Today we celebrate Christ the King Sunday. The king I described above sounds remarkable, but that king is quite the opposite from our King: Jesus Christ. Jesus came into the world, born into poverty. His mother was unwed. His earthly father was a carpenter. Mary and Joseph didn’t even have a proper bed for Jesus. He was laid to sleep in an animal’s feeding trough. As Jesus grew and began his ministry, he wasn’t surrounded by golden palace walls. He travelled all over on foot. When he entered into Jerusalem, he wasn’t riding on some stately stallion. No, he was riding on the colt of a donkey. Not very royal, is it? Furthermore, Jesus wasn’t surround by guards and officials for his protection. Instead, guards and officials surrounded Jesus to persecute him, torture him, and put him to death. Our King is a very different kind of king than that which the world presents to us.

Psalm 95 reminds us of how great God is, a King above all other gods. Too often we hear how God’s creation is worshiped and glorified. People pray to “Mother Earth” or “Mother Nature.” They pray to various parts of creation. Sadly, they worship the creation instead of the *Creator*. Our Creator, our King deserves our worship because indeed he is a very different kind of king. Our King was willing to be surrounded by soldiers, tortured, and put to death to save us from our own sinfulness. No other king has been or is willing to go the lengths that our Savior Jesus does for us.

When we gather to worship, may we be reminded of how great our King is. May we not take for granted the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation God has given to us with the price of Jesus’ blood.