



Daily Faith Practices

Christ the King Sunday (A) – Ephesians 1:15-23

Focus: *Know the Hope to Which You Have Been Called*

word of life

“... you may know what is the hope to which God has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance ... and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe” Ephesians 1:18-19 (NRSV)

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday in the church year. It is a day where we celebrate and remember that ultimately, despite evidence seemingly to the contrary, God is in control.

1. *What does it mean to speak of Christ as “king?”*
2. *Does the term have meaning in today’s world?*
3. *What images come to mind when you hear “Christ the King” Sunday?*

The author of Ephesians expresses the glorious reign of God in cosmic terms. Christ is seated “far above all rule and authority and power and dominion” (vs. 21) and is above every name now and in the future (vs. 21b). All things are put “under his feet” (vs. 22) and Christ is head over all things (vs.22).

4. *We confess in our creeds that Christ is “seated at the right hand of the Father.” What does that mean to you?*
5. *How is Christ head over your life?*

All this is done “for the church,” the body of Christ. And it is into that body that we are joined in baptism. The cosmic becomes individualized; God’s reign over the world is made personal as we are joined to Christ in the waters of baptism. The verses we read today are overflowing with baptismal imagery.

A prayer is offered for “a spirit of wisdom.” (vs. 17) The faithful are urged to know the hope to which they have been called (vs. 18), the riches of God’s glorious inheritance (vs. 18), and the greatness of God’s power. (vs. 19) It is the same power (the Greek word is *dynamis*) that raised Christ from the dead.

6. *As you watch a baptism, what is your prayer for that person?*
7. *How would you define the spirit of wisdom?*

That power is given “for us who believe.” For you. For me. In baptism, we are gifted with God’s Spirit, called to a hope-filled future, and energized with the dynamic power of the One who is above all things and all powers.

8. *How would you describe God’s power to someone who did not know God?*

The church in Ephesus is reminded that they are tapped into something greater than themselves. They (and we) are claimed by God and joined in a powerful, life-changing way to Christ’s death and resurrection.

Christ is the King! Oh, friends, rejoice!

word among us

We say the words, often without thinking. They usually are prayed every time the Christian community of faith gathers. We know the words by heart. They flow from our memory with ease: *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen*

1. *When did you first learn the Lord's Prayer?*
2. *Who taught you the Lord's Prayer?*
3. *What do these words from the Lord's Prayer mean to you?*
4. *What difference does the truth of this prayer make in our world today?*

We shout today, "Christ is the King!" Living in the kingdom of Christ has powerful implications. We are reminded in the verses written to the Ephesians that the King of all creation has called each of us to know a hope-filled life, full of possibility.

In times when it seems like no one is in control, we can trust in a God who has the whole world in God's hand. In times when we feel lost and abandoned, we can remember the hope to which we have been called and the promises of God. In times when we feel powerless, we can pray: *For thine is the kingdom, and the power....*

Our lives can echo the prayer written to the church in Ephesus – that we might know and trust in "the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us who believe." (vs. 19)

5. *In what ways do you experience "the greatness of God's power?" Share some examples.*
6. *Where do you see God's power at work today?*

faith practice in daily life

Hear the Word of God and share in the Lord's Supper.

When we celebrate a baptism in our worship, we affirm the connection God has made with us. We are individually called "child of God." We acknowledge God's reign in our lives, and we commit ourselves to follow Christ as our Lord and King.

In baptism, we celebrate the power that raised Christ from death, and we tap into that same power as we face life and as we face our own death. As we hear God's word and share in the Lord's Supper, we get connected to our source of strength and power – Jesus Christ.

This power gives us hope.

7. *How has the hearing of the Word of God today touched your life?*
8. *What do you want to remember from this lesson?*

Prayer

Help me, O Christ, to trust the words I pray: *for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen*

last word

Pray the
Lord's Prayer
daily.



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God's work. Our hands.

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Page 2 of 2