

**Devotion – Twenty Fifth Week after Pentecost**  
**Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

This coming Sunday we will celebrate Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday. This feast day was initiated by Pope Pius XI in 1925 for the Roman Catholic Church, but it has been incorporated into our Protestant liturgical calendar. It occurs on the last Sunday of “Ordinary Time,” or the last Sunday before Advent begins. Ordinary time is the time between Pentecost and Advent, when we normally use the color green for our paraments and stoles. Ordinary time is not “ordinary;” it comes from the word “ordinal,” as in counting. You’ll notice that this week is the 25<sup>th</sup> week after Pentecost – the 25<sup>th</sup> week in “Ordinary Time.”

Ordinary time ends next Sunday, November 21, with this special day, called Christ the King, or Reign of Christ. We will use white paraments that day to honor Christ. It is the last Sunday in our liturgical year, believe it or not. Beginning November 28, we go back to Advent – that time of waiting for the Savior to be born. So we begin a liturgical year with the hope for this special child, and we end a liturgical year with celebrating the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, who reigns as King in heaven.

At the end of this Liturgical year, we give thanks and praise for the sovereignty of Christ, who is Lord of all creation and is coming again in glory to reign (see Revelation 1:4-8). The day centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. The celebration of the lordship of Christ thus looks back to the risen Lord at Easter and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme. As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people. In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.

As sovereign ruler, Christ calls us to a loyalty that transcends every earthly claim on the human heart. To Christ alone belongs the supreme allegiance in our lives. Christ calls us to stand with those who in every age confessed, “Jesus Christ is Lord!” In every generation, demagogues emerge to claim an allegiance that belongs only to God. But Christ alone has the right to claim our highest loyalty. The blood of martyrs, past and present, witnesses to this truth.

So this coming Sunday we will look at the culmination of our studies this past year through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus with a look at Jesus reigning over all the earth. And then we will move into a season of hopeful waiting, as the cycle of the Christian season starts over. We will move from a focus on the Gospel of Mark to the Gospel of Luke.

As Revelation 17 reminds us, “They will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings.”

May we be faithful to that legacy.

***Jeanne***