

Sermons at  
First Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
Reggie Denton, Pastor

November 24, 2024 (Christ the King, Year B)  
John 18:33-37

Today is Christ the King Sunday. This is the end of the year for the church. Next Sunday we begin a NEW year with Advent, but on this LAST Sunday, we reflect on the person behind it all: Christ the King. And though we don't use LANGUAGE like this to talk about Jesus very often, Christ is INDEED a king. He's the ultimate king, even though, as we read in our Gospel lesson, he refused to ACT like one.

Now let's take a moment to think about that. How DOES a king act? Pilate, the king that oversaw the crucifixion of Christ, HE acted like a king. He was powerful. He could decide whether people lived or died, and he USED that power. If someone got in his way, if they posed any kind of threat to himself or the Roman empire, like people were saying JESUS was, Pilate would just have them killed, (snap finger) just like that, no second thoughts about it. He HAD that kind of power, and USED that power. THAT'S what a king of THIS world is like.

But JESUS' kingdom isn't FROM this world. Jesus was a DIFFERENT KIND of king.

Show Jesus Pictures.

Now setting aside the fact that Jesus was way too white in many of those images, what did you see in his face in them? Jesus is the king of LOVE. His throne was the cross. His crown is a crown of thorns. In His kingdom, Christ SHARES our fears and EXPERIENCES our frailties. In the reign of God, the powerful one doesn't INTIMIDATE the weak, but CARES for them. In the reign of God, the person of authority doesn't USE others, but SEEKS them out and crowns THEM with mercy."

What kind of king is that? By OUR standards, this is no king at ALL. But by GOD'S standards, this is the KING OF kings. This is a king that CAME to us so that we could SEE God, truly see God, see who God REALLY is. This is a king that made himself WEAK so that WE could be strong. This is a king who DIED so that WE could live. This is a king that walks WITH us in our lives.

This is what we MEAN when we say that Jesus is King. Jesus is the king of LOVE, and WE are his kingdom. Amen.