

Saint Thomas and Saint Thomas of the Air Church
Christ the King
October 27, 2024
rmcneely+

Today we celebrate the feast day of: Christ, the King.

However;

You won't find it in our prayer book

It is not listed there among the feast days of the church

On page Roman numeral Li and Lii.

Or anywhere else in our Prayer Book

So what happened to the 22nd Sunday after Trinity?

And why are the clergy and altar vested in the white vestments

Reserved for high holy days?

I hear you cry.

Let me try to explain:

The answer lies steeped in modern history and deep in theology.

Let's go back to the end of

what was known then as the "Great War"

The War to end all Wars.

Let's go to 1918.

That was a time when the ravages of WWI were still raw

17 million had died

20 million had been maimed or wounded.

There were few families German or Allied

that had not felt the tragedy,

or suffered a loss.

All sides believed they had come home victorious

And nothing had changed beyond some lines on a map.

The outcome of the war made many question why it was fought.

Coming out of that war

The Euro-American peoples were shattered
 Their governments and institutions had failed them and
 proven themselves

Unreliable

Untrustworthy

Communism had ravaged Russia during the war

And was spreading in Europe

And was even an alternative political party here in the States

The seeds of WWII were planted and beginning to grow.

Marx and Lenin recognized their communist state could not exist
 in a Christian society of independent thought.

So churches throughout Russia were closed

Orthodox Christianity was imprisoned

Its clergy persecuted

The Secularism movement, an outgrowth of the era of

“enlightenment” was born and flourished in Communist Sts.

We see secularism growing still today at least as against

Christian doctrine here at home.

But it had its roots in the turmoil of WWI

By the 1920's Pope Pius XI wisely recognized

That the root cause of

The decline of Society,

Was the atheism required by the communists

And that it was attacking the sovereignty of God, of Jesus

Mankind sought

to sit in the throne of God in people's lives.

Like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden,

Secular man thought he could be God,

And had succumbed to the whiles of the snake.

It was beguiling to think he could ignore his maker

Could rebel
 as did the Israelites at the foot of Mt Sinai
 and worship the God of the State to his life's profit.

Pope Pius inserted this day in the Church calendar to remind us all
 Who is King.
 But it happened at about 1928.
 Just as our Prayer Book was being published.
 So the feast of Christ, the King was not yet a firm part of
 Christian tradition
 and it did not make its way into our book.

Most of you know that St Thomas is a constituent church of the
 Anglican Province of Christ the King.
 The story of how we got our name is our next step.

It is no coincidence that our Province was named for this day.
 To understand why,
 we must spend a few moments
 with the painful story of the cause for the separation
 from the Episcopal Church in 1977.

The story begins in the disillusioned 1930s and 1940s,
 In the Episcopal Seminaries
 Where seminarians, the future clergy and bishops
 Were not educated, as much as they were indoctrinated
 By professors who had turned away
 From centuries of Orthodox thought,
 research and understanding,
 from traditional Christian Doctrine.

By professors who indoctrinated the young minds of seminarians
with

principals of a new religion.

One in which Christ no longer ruled.

One in which Scripture was no longer the rule of life,

One no longer tied to Centuries of Christian Doctrine.

Because this new breed saw themselves

as superior to the centuries of their predecessors.

They professed to be the enlightened ones

who were better than centuries of their predecessors

They considered themselves as the rulers of Christ

Rulers of God

And where ancient scripture was a bar against a modern

Socio-political goal

Scripture was no longer something

to which we should adhere our lives.

They could “reinterpret” scripture.

It was liberating for them

They could bend scripture

to match everything they wanted to do with their lives.

They inferred that we really didn’t need God

We really didn’t need Jesus

We really didn’t need a King in our lives

Because we could put ourselves on His thrown.

The inevitable happened and the Episcopal church abandoned its
past and moved into a new more “modern” religion.

By the mid-70’s the seminarians were the priests,

were the bishops

And strange doctrine emanated:

The Virgin Birth was a myth

The feeding miracles were lies

Everyone brought a bag lunch

And the story is about the benefit of sharing

What Marx and Lenin would know as:

“From those according to their ability,
to those according to their needs.”

Things came to a crisis in the election of the Bishop of the local diocese.

Deep into the night, after several polls, there was still no winner and no majority no new bishop.

It came down to 2 candidates:

James Pike, a reformed alcoholic lawyer

And Leslie Wilder, an orthodox priest

For whom we are indebted for the land upon
which this very church stands
and for whom our Parish Hall is named.

The election would be close

But after the ballots were counted

James Pike won by a single vote

And everything began to change.

As the Episcopal Church was mired deeper and deeper

It became clear that a terrible choice had to be made.

People who were born in the church

Baptized in the church, confirmed in the church

Married in the church

Who had generations of ancestors in the church

Had to turn their backs on the church

Their heritage

Their friends.

You see we actually believe what we pray

And live what we believe

The Communion of Saints means that at each communion
 we join all our sisters and brothers
 the living and the dead
 here and throughout the church across the land
 and we become one with them in spirit.

St Paul warns that doing so with those in heresy is literally
 dangerous to our soul's health.

So when they could take no more
 men such as Robert Sherwood Morse
 Led a painful convention of Christians to St Louis, Missouri
 And what would later be called the Anglican Province of
 Christ the King was born.

Morse and the others carefully named the Province
 to reflect both the problem that led to the creation of the Province
 and the base principal upon which it was founded.

A constant reminder that Christ, not man, is King.
 And it has been a bitter sting to those in power on Knob Hill.
 They do not like the reminder of what they do.

I have been justly criticized for my harsh words
 My description of the new Episcopalian Church.
 However, it is important that we understand and pray for their
 repentance

Their return to the Faith of our Fathers
 In my case to my Great Great and Great Grandfathers.
 My heritage.

You See, in any Christian life,
 Christ, not man, must be King
 And we of the Anglican Province of Christ the King
 Are reminded of that fact
 Every time we say our Name.

So what does it mean to 21st Century mankind
to say that Christ is King?

A few weeks ago we discussed the notion of Christian Humility
That humility in Christian terms meant: obedience
Meant to submit to His will, to be His subject.

To the ancients, who lived their lives with and under a King
They knew that they obeyed their king.
It was so, and there was not an alternative
The very thought of not obeying his commands
Was not even something they could comprehend.

That is the principal we follow
Obedience to the commands of God in our lives.
We are obedient to our sovereign Jesus, the King.
Our lives are guided by the way he lived His life when he lived
among us. When in doubt we ask: What would Jesus do?

Our King, Jesus is sovereign. What He says goes.
This is a tough one for us of a republican form of government
We are used to the people that we elect writing the laws that
govern us.

And by the polls, we like to complain about what they do.
But with a sovereign it is all different.
Jesus is the be all and end all of the law.
There is no appeal to the Supreme Court
There is no election of new representatives to repeal the law.
There is no presidential veto
There is no referendum at the polls.

This is all a foreign concept for us.
But we remind ourselves that nobody voted
to adopt the 10 Commandments.

And lastly
 Jesus, the Christ,
 Jesus The King
Is eternal.
Is alive and is King
 Forever.
 Perpetually
 And always

Is Jesus King then?
Well, He is if you can answer “Yes” to these questions.

Do you know Him?
 Is He your King?
 Have you subjected yourself to Him?
 Are you obedient to Him?
 Does He rule in your life?
 Are His laws
 His way of life,,, Something that guides you?
Jesus Lives.
 In our hearts
 In our minds
 In our souls

He is King of Kings
And Lord of Lords
And He shall live forever and ever
Hallelujah.
Hallelujah.
Hallelujah.

