

Saint Thomas and Saint Thomas of the Air Church  
Christ the King  
October 26, 2025  
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 19th 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 already beginning to grow.

Decades before,  
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 following WWI.

By the 1920's Pope Pius XI wisely recognized  
That the root cause of the decline and decay of Society,  
Was the atheism the communists spewed.  
That 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 mankind 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 on the last  
 Sunday in October, 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 our national church.  
 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.

In the Apostles Creed we affirm our belief in the Communion of Saints.

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  
 As the Episcopalians drifted further into heresy  
 And communion with them became increasingly dangerous  
 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.  
It 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 still 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.

Our heritage is that of citizens, not subjects.  
But with a sovereign,  
With Jesus it is different. We are His subjects.

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.

