Saint Thomas and Saint Thomas of the Air Church
Christ the King
October 25, 2026
rmcneely+

We depart from progression of Sundays after Trinity
And do something different.

Today, we celebrate the feast day of: Christ, the King.
It is not listed there among the feast days of the church
On page Roman numeral L and Li.
Or anywhere else in our Prayer Book.
The BCP does not offer a Collect, Epistle and Gospel
For today.
"So what happened to the 21st 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 back 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,
nothing had changed beyond some lines on a map.

The Spanish flu had killed even more people than the War.
Some estimate up to one third of the planet.
The outcome of the war and its aftermath made many question why it was fought.
Coming out of that war
The Euro-American peoples were shattered
Not only by the staggering loss of life
To combatants and to innocents but
But their governments and institutions had failed them and proven themselves
Unreliable
Untrustworthy.
Communism had ravaged Russia during the war
And was spreading in Europe.
It was even an alternative political party here in the States.
The seeds of WWII were planted and beginning to grow.

Decades before,
Marx and Lenin had 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 states.
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 of Society,
Was the atheism the communists needed to survive.
And that it was attacking the sovereignty of God.

Mankind sought
to sit on 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.
He 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 Provence 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,
turned away 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 forebearers.
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 to suit their desires.
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 roots and moved into a new more "modern" religion.
By the mid-70's the seminarians were the priests,
Some were the bishops.
And strange doctrine emanated:
The Virgin Birth was a myth
The feeding miracles recounted in all 4 gospels, were lies
Everyone brought a bag lunch
And the story is really about the benefit of sharing.

And 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.
In the end 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 it the Communion of Saints.

The Communion of Saints means that at every 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.
His warning is in the Exhortations at page 85 of your prayer book.

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 Provence 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 and double-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;
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 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.