

*Christ the King C 2013*

*The End of the Year of God's Grace*

Today, on this feast of Christ the King, we come to the end of the church's liturgical year. We come to the end of another year of grace—a year during which we have heard and participated in the story of our salvation.

The story of our salvation began last Advent when we waited and hoped for the coming of the Lord in Christmas mystery and at the end of the ages. It continued during the Christmas season when we celebrated the mystery of the eternal Word of God that became made flesh in Jesus Christ. During the season of Lent, we renewed and reformed our lives so that we could worthily celebrate the Paschal Mystery, the mystery of our Lord's death and resurrection. And during the season of Easter, we celebrated that mystery for fifty days so that we might walk in the newness of life that Jesus Christ has given us. Finally, throughout this year we mediated and reflected on the life and ministry of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Saint Luke.

But during this liturgical year we have done more than remember the past; we have participated in the saving events of our salvation. Again and again, we have entered into the mystery of the Lord's saving death and resurrection. We have been renewed by the power of God's Spirit. We have experienced what St. Paul's calls the newness of life that comes from the Spirit of the risen Lord. We have been bathed in the waters of God's grace, love and mercy.

This feast of Christ the King tells us the end of the story of our salvation. It reminds us that at the end of the ages, at the end of our lives, when all is revealed, Jesus Christ will be king. Jesus Christ will rule over our lives and over the world in which we live. To be sure, it doesn't seem that way now. To be sure, it is difficult to believe that at the end of the ages God will be victorious in Christ.

At the present time the worries and anxieties of daily living consume our lives. Will I be laid off? Will I get my job back? What is happening to my children? What is happening to my aged parents? How am I going to cope with the unreasonable demands being made upon me every day? How can I keep my balance when my life is like a roller coaster that is always dipping, rising, and falling?

At the present time it is hard to believe that Jesus Christ will rule at the end of the ages. We look at the violence and destruction in our world that seems to grow greater and greater every year. We look the natural disasters that afflict innocent people again and again. And we ask if it will ever end. In the silence of our hearts, we doubt and we wonder who will be victorious at the end of the ages: the power of evil or the grace of God? Jesus Christ or Satan?

But for us who believe the answer to these questions is found in this feast of Jesus Christ the King: the one through whom and for whom God created all that exists. For us who believe, there is no doubt that God and only God will have the last word, the only word that matters, the Word that is Jesus Christ.

But if this is true, then we know the end of the story. We know that in the end—in God's good time—all will be well. How this will happen, we do not know. When this will happen, we do not know. That this will happen, we are sure because we believe in Jesus Christ.

What a difference Christ makes in our lives. Because we know the end of the story we can live with confidence and hope in the midst of fear and anxiety because Jesus Christ is King. Because we know that Jesus Christ will rule at the end of the ages, we know that all will be well.