

December 8, 2019

King Jesus

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Advent 2—Christmas and Carols

Pastor Hartwig

Grace, mercy, and peace from God, our Heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.  
Amen! Dear brothers and sisters in Christ –

**[Introduction]**

Generally speaking, Americans don't like kings.

OH! We had a king once! And we didn't really care for it.

When many of us hear the word "king," we think of:

— A distant tyrant across the ocean who mistreats the people  
and, well, taxes their tea.

— Or a meaningless figurehead; the Queen of England—long live the queen!  
It's a historical office held over from the past that no longer has any real power.

Americans don't like kings.

BUT The Israelites were just the opposite.

You see, they cried out, "If we only had a king." And they *HAD* kings.

First was King Saul, and he had no heart.

Second was King David, and he had a whole heart.

Third was King Solomon, and he had a half-heart.

Then the kingdom divided, and there were kings galore.

Jeroboam to the north, and Rehoboam to the south. They began the division.

You know to keep it straight, I do my divided ditty...

North South; Israel Judah; 19-20; 0-8. Yeah!

That is a lot of kings! 19 in the North. 20 in the South. 42 kings over Israel.

And most of them failed – failed to be true to God

**[King Jesus]**

But when we speak of a king – Jesus Christ as our King,

we are not alluding to either a tyrant or a figurehead or a failure.

—or even a benevolent king who rules for a season.

We are instead speaking of a perfect, righteous, and loving King;

one who is absolutely sovereign in His authority and eternal in His reign.

In both the Old and New Testaments

we find explicit reference to Jesus—the Messiah—as being a king.

The angel Gabriel,

when he announced to Mary that she would give birth to Jesus, said:

***He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.***

***And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,***

***and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever,***

***and of his kingdom there will be no end.*** (Luke 1:32-33)

Jesus is from the lineage of King David,  
appointed to the throne by God the Father to reign over an eternal kingdom.

Elsewhere Jesus is referred to as

- the King of the Jews (Matthew 1:2),
- the King of Israel (Mark 15:32),
- the “the blessed and only Sovereign” (1 Timothy 6:15) ,
- the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16).

Even this term Lord, used so often of Jesus,  
speaks of His supreme power and authority.

Ephesians 1:20-22 tells us that Jesus is now seated  
at [God’s] right hand in the heavenly places,

***“far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”***

We have a King, and His name is Jesus.

And He is not just A king but *THE* king

—the King of Kings, with authority and dominion over all things.

**[*Christ’s Kingdom*]**

Jesus did not usher in the same type of kingdom that David or Solomon ruled over.

He did not come to overthrow Roman rule by force, as some expected,  
but instead rules and reigns over the hearts and lives of His people.

Jesus Christ is a king, and yet His kingdom is not of this world.

Since Christ’s kingdom is not of this world, those who belong to Him are also not of this world.

The Apostle Paul tells us this in Philippians 3:

***“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.”*** (20-21)

We have a king, and we are citizens of a heavenly kingdom.

Our God has been hospitable and offered us hospitality.

Once an alien, we are no more. He has filled us with good things.

All of this because of the babe of Bethlehem and the crucified of Calvary.

All this because of Jesus.

Now that makes a Merry Christmas! Long live the King! Amen!

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As followers of Christ, “Keep loving one another earnestly  
And show hospitality to one another without grumbling.” AMEN! (1 Pt 4:8-9)

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