



**Christ the King Sunday (B)**  
**November 21, 2021**  
*The Rev. Dr. Christian Brocato, Rector*

†May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O God, our Strength and Redeemer. Amen.

Each year on this Sunday, the final Sunday of the Liturgical Year, the Church presents us with a feast that is challenging. Christ the King Sunday or The Reign of Christ Sunday, as it can also be called, presents us with an image of Jesus which challenges us to see Christ as the ruler of the nations and the ruler of our hearts.

In today's Gospel, Jesus replies to Pilate and tosses the proverbial ball back into Pilate's court. On one level, Pilate is a foil in this narrative, as he represents not just himself but the establishment. Pilate questions and challenges Jesus. Jesus in turn claims that his kingdom is not of this world.

Jesus' response was not about worldly authority and the exercise of power. His was a life that would be borne to a cross, lifted high for all to see. We exalt that Cross when we sing "Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, that all the world adore his sacred Name."

The God of love was crucified. Jesus gave his life for the values he presented and represented to the Jewish and Hellenistic communities of his day. He presents them to us as well.

Jesus, the love of God Incarnate, came into the world to denounce the evil of this world, those dark places where hatred, bullying, racism, violence and war flourish. Jesus came to show a new way of living, a life of love in all he said and how he lived. Jesus challenges us to do the same.

Last week at worship, we reaffirmed the Dismantling Racism Pledge which we took two years ago. It is a pledge which represents values which we affirm as Christians at St. Mark's.

Our ministries and outreach into the community represent the values to which we cling as followers of Jesus. As the beloved community, we seek to feed the hungry and clothe those in need, physically and spiritually. The authentic values of the Christian Tradition are those for which Jesus stood and for which he gave his life.

We are not likely going to be called to physically give our lives for our faith. We are called to do all we can to proclaim what we believe and to live out what we believe in our lives.

Today, we find ourselves in a complex Sunday in which the values we embrace need to be seen in alignment with those of Jesus, "the King of our hearts", if you will. We find ourselves in a world where truth is seemingly valued by fewer and fewer people. We find ourselves in the midst of social and political unrest which are alarming. We find ourselves in a world out of control because of climate change, as evidenced by the terrible storm which wreaked havoc in Washington State and Vancouver this past week. We find ourselves in a world as much in need of the values of the Christian life as ever before.

Here at St. Mark's, we find ourselves in the midst of our Stewardship Season of Giving which we celebrate today as 'Commitment Sunday'. We give of ourselves, our time, our talents, and our financial resources, so that St. Mark's can stand firm in an increasingly secular world. Unlike much of that world, we remain committed to the values for which Jesus lived and died.

Jesus Christ was and is the ultimate example of stewardship, a faithful steward of all that he was and is and will be for generations to come. Jesus was and is the faithful steward of love, a love for which he lived and died, an example for us all.

We are called to be faithful stewards of all we are, have been given in life and as a community of faith. We are called to act on that stewardship. As faithful stewards, financial giving from generous hearts allows us to be the "body of Christ" active and alive at St. Mark's.

With financial support and with God's help, we can continue to celebrate Eucharist, Baptism, Marriage and the lives of those who have passed on to eternal life. We can continue to visit the sick and tend the dying. We can continue to tend this beloved building which has housed the people of God for 173 years. We can continue our many ministries, over thirty-five of them. We can and will be able to fund our ministries, programs and salaries for 2022.

St. Mark's continues to stand as a beacon of light on a hill not just for us but our neighbors and the world much in need of the light of Christ. His kingdom, his reign, is of love. His mission is our mission as his followers for which we are grateful.

We come today to lift high the Love of Christ for all to embrace. We come with who we are and all we have been given to be a light shining in the darkness, a path in the wilderness, a road less traveled and a people set apart as followers of Jesus. We come to further the reign of Christ and to be people of hope, justice, love and mercy. Perhaps, questions remain.

Will we bring about the reign of Christ in our lives? Will we further the love of Jesus in our hearts and in this place, we call St. Mark's? Will we give of ourselves and our resources so that that love which is ours in Jesus and his Church will thrive in a world so much in need?

My friends in Christ, we can do it! We can embrace the reign of Christ and make a difference in the world. It is our call, and with God's help, we can make it happen. Amen.