

## Homily

Christ the King, 11/25/18

Fr Danny

“All who belong to the truth, hear my voice.” These words from Jesus speaking to Pilate today really highlight what today is all about. The Kingship of Christ. If you’ve been paying attention the last three or four weeks, in our readings, most of our second readings have come from the book of Revelation. The end times. Eschatology, which is the study of the end times is what this weekend is all about.

It is the end of our liturgical year. The Feast of Christ the King. Why did the Church choose for this feast to be the end of our liturgical year, you may ask yourself? Well, let’s look at what we hear in our readings today. Who is Christ? Who is God? He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. So, it makes sense then for us to celebrate the Kingship of Christ, that this world is not worthy of, that is surpassing every King in this world. It makes sense for us to celebrate His Kingship, His Kingdom, on this last week of our regular ordinary time of year.

Because next weekend we begin Advent. And what does Advent lead up to? Christmas! So, when does Christmas music start? It drives me crazy every year! But it’s that fight and that constant tension that we have. We don’t want to wait. We don’t want to wait for those good things, we want them NOW!

Kids, as soon as that first present is under the tree, they see that their name is on there, and they’re like...I want to pick it up! I won’t open it, I promise! We want to know what that present is! That anticipation, and that child-like feeling in us is not bad. But must be directed.

We must have that anticipation for something not of this world but of the world to come. That’s why we celebrate the season of Advent. To prepare ourselves for the beginning. Because we’ve just experienced the end.

Christ the King is one of those feasts that many of us don’t understand because in our day and age today we don’t understand what it means to be a king. For my generation, the prime example of a king is Rafiki holding up young

Simba and all of the animals bowing before him! That's our example of a king! That's what we think of. And yes, the king of the jungle, the lion. We don't understand what it means to be a king.

Yet we put all of our trust in men, put all of our trust in princes, as it reminds us in the psalms, and we always come up lacking. No matter what prince, what king, what lord, what ruler, what president we put our trust into, we are always left wanting. We are wanting to be fulfilled. We are wanting our expectations to be met. We are wanting violence, and war and neglect, and persecution to be left behind. We put all of our trust in those who are flawed. That's our struggle. That is humanity.

And we look to kings and rulers here in this world to answer our questions, when there's only one answer to the question and that is Jesus Christ. It's like when I go to the kids at school, and I say what's the answer to this? Someone always says "Jesus." That is the right answer this time! Then I have to go a bit further and say what about Jesus? Jesus is love!

In the beginning of time when the Word of God spoke creation into being, it was through love that God created the heavens and the earth. It was through love that God created the animals and the earth. It was through love, my brothers and sisters that God created you and me. He continues to create. Because He's creating us for something more than this world.

Like Deacon's homily a few weeks ago when he was talking about birth as a passage. That before we're born, when we're in the womb, that's the only life that we know. And we pass from that life into this life. Something new, something wonderful. But when you were in the womb, you didn't know anything about this world. You didn't even think it existed, because you didn't have any experience of it.

It's the same struggle we have right now with afterlife. When we die, some of us are still wondering, does it really exist, does it really matter? Is there really a Hell? Is there really a Heaven? I so, how do I get there? We have all of these questions continually percolating within ourselves. And sometimes we continue to seek the answers. But many times, the answers are so far out there that we just give up. It's much easier for us to just kind of live today for today. Whatever

comes, comes. If I go to Hell, I go to Hell. If I go to Heaven I go to Heaven. Whatever is going to happen is going to happen.

My brothers and sisters we keep looking for signs and symbols. He's been giving them to us. Time, and time, and time, and time again. I was reminded of those signs and symbols on this trip. Many of us went to this pilgrimage I just came from lost. The irony is that we lost 37 items on this trip. Father's passport (not this father – father Carl's), my phone, a jacket, glasses, a wallet, I don't know how, but someone lost their shoes. But everything that was lost, without fail was found. Even my phone. It's somewhere over the Atlantic being sent back to me.

But everything that was lost was found. And I think that's important for us to remember. Why? Because each and every one of us are lost in this world. We have moments where we are lost, but God promises us that we will be found if we seek His help. Every time that we lost something on this trip we prayed to God through the intercession of St Anthony, patron of lost items, "Help us find what was lost."

It was a blessing that we lost all of these things, although it gave me a minor heart attack when Father Carl lost his passport, in the airport, before we got on the airplane. The fact that it was found showed me that we were doing what we were supposed to be doing. Living our lives with prayer. Living our lives seeking God's example, seeking His symbols that He gives to us if we're willing to look for them.

Now, it would have been really easy to look at this and say this was a horrible trip! We lost 37 things! But its so much better to say, yeah, but we found them all too. So too with us, when we're lost in our lives, God will help us find our way. It may not be the way we expect. Believe me, it's not going to be the way you expect! But He will find you where you need to be. And that's important.

So when we celebrate this Feast of Christ the King, He's calling us to trust in Him. That no matter what obstacles we face in our lives, He is there for us. And its more than just a liege lord that we bow down and give homage to, but it is a King Who truly cares about us and our well-being. And our happiness not just in this life but in the life to come. I don't know about you, but that's pretty awesome. That's something I want to wait for.

So, as we continue into this Advent season next week, let us begin to prepare room in our hearts for the Lord. And not jump the gun, not just automatically go to “Hey it’s Christmas!” Not yet! It’s not Christmas yet.

We have time to prepare. We have time to wait. Use that time wisely. Prepare room in your heart to receive the Lord into your heart as the Alpha and the Omega. Put Him in His primacy of place, and my brothers and sisters this will be the greatest Christmas you will ever have. Even if it’s a Christmas for the first time without one of your loved ones. Even if it’s a Christmas for the first time with a new loved one! That no matter what you’re longing for the Lord will give you if you ask of Him. If you need it, it will come! If you prepare room, He will come. And that, my brothers and sisters is the good news that we are presented with on this feast of Christ the King.