

HOMILY CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY – B (Homily 03)

“Christ the Servant King”

(Daniel 7:13-14; Psalm 93; Rev 1:5-8; John 18:33-37)

The readings for this feast of Christ the King have an apocalyptic tone. That tone suits the time of year. Winter is upon us; the trees are bare; the ground likely covered with snow. It is the end of the liturgical year. Through these readings, we are encouraged to be ready for a new heaven and a new earth, by letting Jesus reign in our hearts and lives here and now.

The book of Daniel is full of that apocalyptic tone. It was written around the 2nd century BC, during the Maccabean revolt against the Hellenizing Greeks, a time of great anguish for the Jewish people. The first part of the book is about the Jews who were in the Babylonian exile, another time of great crisis, struggle and anguish for the Jews.

There are three elements to apocalyptic writing: a military struggle among nations; heavenly signs and wonders, and the survival of a remnant around a victor or savior. Daniel’s dream is actually about the angel Michael who would come to rescue the Jewish people, and take to himself a remnant. However, it can also be applied as a prophecy about Jesus, who is the Son of Man, given all kinship and glory, and who would gather to himself a remnant, a holy people.

In the gospel, we see Jesus entering into his passion, questioned by Pilate. The focal point of Jesus’ battle against the fundamental evil in the world, Satan himself, would be on the cross. It is there that the battle would be fought, and it is through the resurrection, that heavenly sign, that the victory over evil would be won.

Jesus will be king, with dominion over all creation, served by all nations, and his reign will last forever, never to be destroyed. He now calls all nations to come to him, to become a holy remnant, even more, to be the reign of God here on earth.

The reading from Revelations, which draws heavily from the Book of Daniel, pulls it all together. Jesus is the first born from the dead, faithful witness to God’s redeeming love, king and ruler over all. He loves us and has redeemed us through his own blood. We are now part of his kingdom, and as such, will be ready when he comes again as the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end.

There is a prose work that speaks to this feast which closes one season of our liturgical life, and beckons in the new next Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent. It goes like this:

People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. When you figure out which it is, you know exactly what to do. When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed outwardly or inwardly. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally, or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend, and they are. They are there for the reason you need them to be. Then, without any wrongdoing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end. Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up or out and force you to take a stand. What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled; their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered and it is now time to move on.

When people come into your life for a SEASON, it is because your turn has come to share, grow, or learn. They may bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it! It is real! But, only for a season

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons; those things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person or people; and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

May there be peace within you today. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing that you are a child of God. Let His presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, and to bask in the sun. It is there for each and every one of you.

The Eucharist we celebrate today is a faith meal, a victorious banquet with our King, who has fought that great fight against the root of all evil in the world and has won the victory through his Cross. He now nourishes us, his church, his remnant, by his Word, and his Body and Blood, so that, empowered by his Spirit,

we may have the will and the love to go out serve our brothers and sisters out of Christ-like love.

So, put your humble faith and trust in an eternal monarch - listen to, and serve, Jesus the King, and be part of the reign of God here on earth.