

## **HOMILY ON THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING: IN PRAISE OF THE ETERNAL KING**

The Church's calendar begins with the expectation of a new born king – Christ Jesus – Rex Christus – Christ the king and ends with the acclamation and glorification of same king whose reign has neither beginning nor end but is the beginning and end (Alpha and Omega) of all other kings and kingdoms. In whose reign also we find the highest good, highest beauty and the highest truth. In Him is the way, the truth and the life!

A song pertinent to today's ceremony is thus: Christus Vincit, Christus Regnat, Christus Imperat! Meaning, Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ rules.

The history of the world is actually replete with the rising and falling of kings and kingdoms; the rising and falling of empires and emperors. The entire gamut of world history presents us with tales of enthronements and dethronements of individuals and groups with their transient powers. We are conversant with the Pharaohs of Egypt, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon during the exilic experience of Daniel's time. Down the path of history we know of Alexander the Great whose reign was felt around the known world of his time, we know of Alfred the Great, Darius the Great, Charlemagne, Louis XIV and others. Many empires rose and fell: Roman Empire, Spanish Empire, and the Empires of France and all other Empires we may know of.

In modern history we know of Haile Selassie (the 225th and last emperor of Ethiopia), Adolf Hitler (the Nazi machinery of the holocaust), Idi Amin (the ruthless self-acclaimed field Marshal and president for life of Uganda). In contemporary history we know of the Saddam Husseins, the Mubaracks. The last from this era was Mommah Gaddafi who organized his crowning as king of kings of Africa. One common denominator is that all these kingdoms and their kings crumbled at some historic points.

Our celebration today is focused on Jesus Christ the universal king. We are today drawn to Jesus Christ the King who reigns for eternity. That our Lord Jesus Christ is King is not a figment of imagination or mere wishful thinking; testimonies abound in the scriptures:

Psalm 24:10 . Tells us that he is the king of glory.

Psalm 47:10: Calls him the one who reigns over all the nations.

Isaiah 9:6-7. Calls him our ruler, the Wonder Counselor, Mighty Father, Prince of Peace whose kingdom will have no end!

Zecharia 9:9. Calls him our King that rides humbly, triumphantly and victoriously on a donkey.

Jeremiah 23:5-6: The prophet acknowledged him as the righteous branch from David and the king that will reign and prosper.

Zecharia 14: 9. Calls him the King of all the earth.

Matthew 2:2 . Calls him the King of the Jews.

Matthew 28:18: Says that all power in heaven and on earth belongs to him.

Luke 1: 33 : Says that his kingdom will have no end.

Luke 23:38. His executioners confirmed him as the King of the Jews.

John 1: 49. Calls him the King of Israel.

Rev.17:14. Calls him Lord of Lords King of Kings.

Exodus 15:11 : Says that there is no one like unto Him among the gods; glorious in holiness, fearful in praises doing wonders!

The King we are acknowledging and worshipping today is very much unlike the earthly kings. His Kingdom is also very much unlike the Kingdoms of the earth.

- Earthly Kings slept on costly beds and sat on expensive chairs, but Jesus our Lord and King had nowhere to lay his head (Luke 9:58) and the cross was his throne (Matt. 27:35).
- People serve and die for earthly kings, but Jesus Christ the King came not to be served, but to serve and gave his life as a ransom (Mark 10:45).
- Earthly kings obtain resources from their subjects but Jesus our King fed the people with bread and fish and when further to give them his body and blood to sustain them in their journey to

eternity.(Jn.6:55)

• Earthly Kings fight and destroy their enemies but Jesus our King forgave his executioners establishing that they didn't know what they were doing? (Luke 23:34).

Christ our king is:

- king of the Jews
- He is the king of Israel
- He is the King of the universe
- He is the king of the heaven and the earth
- He is the king of righteousness
- He is the king of ages
- He is the king of glory
- He is the king of kings
- He is enduringly strong
- He is entirely sincere
- He is eternally steadfast
- He is immortally graceful
- He is imperially powerful
- He is impartially merciful
- He is indescribable
- He is incomprehensible
- He is invincible
- He is irresistible
- He is impregnable
- He is irreducible
- He is intractable
- He is irreprehensible
- He is the key to knowledge
- He is the wellspring of wisdom
- He is the doorway of deliverance
- He is the pathway of peace
- He is the roadway of righteousness
- He is the highway of holiness
- He is the gateway of glory
- He is the greatest phenomenon that ever passed the horizon of this world.
- He is the centrepiece of civilization
- He is the loftiest idea in literature
- He is the highest personality in philosophy
- He is the fundamental doctrine of true theology
- He is the epicentre of authentic geology
- His life is matchless
- His goodness is limitless
- His mercy is everlasting
- His love never changes
- His word is enough
- His grace is sufficient
- His yoke is easy
- His burden is light
- You can't live without him
- You can't get him off your hand
- You can't outlive him
- The Pharisees could not stand him

- The Sadducees could not stop him
- Pilate could not find any fault in him
- Herod could not kill him
- Death could not handle him
- Even the grave could not hold him.

In our world today, there are many kings and kingdoms springing up everywhere. In our contemporary human society money has constituted itself as a king as many run after it as if their lives came from it. The same is applicable to materialism, immorality and fashion. In the area of modern means of communication the story is more disheartening.

All over the world people give “101” attention to television, internet, mobile phones and indeed the social media to the detriment of the required attention to Jesus Christ the King. Often the only time most people remember that Jesus Christ is the most powerful King is when they go through some deplorable experiences. At such time they “order” Jesus Christ to intervene immediately and confront the situation. When the challenge is over they tend to drop him by the side until yet another time. That is why people merely call him a helper, provider, sustainer, rewarder etc. But he is beyond all these. He is our HELP, PROVISION, REWARD, SALVATION, SUSTENANCE etc.

Actually we cannot put a limit to what Jesus Christ our King can do for us and with us. If you read the encounter between Moses and God in Exodus (3:14ff) you will find out that when Moses asked God “who should I tell that sent me?” God said to him tell them that “I AM” sent you. This is actually an open withdrawal cheque which God left for us. God did not say I am the protector for instance so that all He owes us would be to protect and nothing more. But He said “I Am.....” And left the spaces for you to add whatever you desire from him. It is from this that we understand Jesus expanding into various areas like: “I am the way, I am the truth, I am the resurrection. I am the life, I am the good Shepherd” etc.

Let us therefore pray for the reign of Christ in our lives, families and our society especially as the world is in some sort of crisis. May Christ the King of Kings reign!

Happy Christ the King!