



Christ the King!

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37

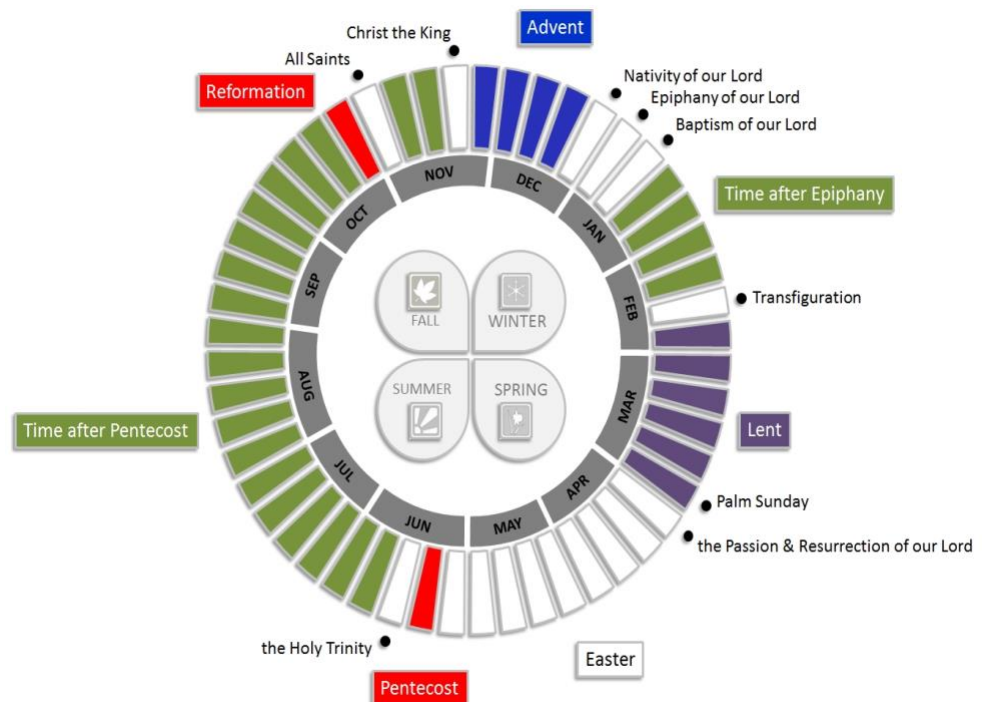
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The “**Church Year**” is an intricate system of Scriptures lessons and themes that teach us about the Lord Jesus and our life in His Kingdom. You may recognize the “seasons” of the Church Year such as Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. Each season has a unique color, represented by my stole and the altar colors in the traditional service, and the altar colors and the stage up-lighting in FLC services. *On the one hand*, the Church Year is as simple as the diagram on the sermon worksheet; and *on the other hand*, it is so complex that books have been written about it!

Today is the last Sunday of the current Church Year, and the theme is the return of Christ the King on the Last Day.

When the Bible speaks about Jesus being a King, it does not mean that He has a palace on earth. *Jesus is not an earthly king, nor will He reign on earth in some future “millennial reign”.*



Rather, **Jesus the King** means that He has **complete authority** and **full divine power** over all things. It means that He uses His almighty **omnipotent power** for the benefit of His people. *Let me highlight three ways you see Jesus' power in your own life.*

KINGDOM OF GOD

The first is that the King has brought you into His Kingdom.

“King Jesus” used His mighty power **to set you free** from sin, guilt and death. Jesus’ power is not seen in armies, weapons, or even the angels of Heaven: **Jesus’ power is in His Word!** Jesus speaks, and things happen.

- † He speaks His Word in the water of **Holy Baptism**, and you cross over from death to life; you have been *set free* from death in Holy Baptism!
- † Jesus speaks through His Word, **His Law** cuts into your heart and exposes your sin and leads you to repentance. Then His **Gospel, the Good News** of Jesus’ death and resurrection, *forgives* you; and *restores and reconciles* you to God the Father!
- † Jesus places His Word in **Bread and Wine**, and you “*take and eat His Body*” and “*take and drink His blood*” for the *forgiveness of your sins* and the strengthening of your faith.

The King uses His mighty power and strength in Word and Sacrament in your life, so that you are set free from sin, guilt, and death --- and you are given the gifts of forgiveness, peace and life.

The King brings you into His Kingdom. He has set you free from the Kingdom of Satan, the ways of the world, the power of your own sinful nature, the deception of darkness, the control of sin, evil, guilt and death! ***This is who you are now through faith in Jesus!*** You have been **set free** from all of of this because “King Jesus” used His mighty, omnipotent power in your life with His Word and sacraments. **Live your live now in His Kingdom!**

Jesus taught us that <i>the Kingdom of God is in our midst</i> : that is reflected in our architecture: the chancel area of Lutheran Churches shows this: Jesus the King is

using His mighty power through His Word – the pulpit; in the Baptism – the font; and in Holy Communion – the Altar. The chancel area of our church reminds us that *the Kingdom of God is in our midst*, and Jesus our King is using His mighty power to set us free from sin, guilt, and even death itself!

MAKES ALL THINGS WORK FOR GOOD

A second way that you see Jesus your King's power in your life is that He promises to make all things work for good in your life. The Lord knows you so well, and watches over your life in such detail, that He promises that **EVERYTHING** will be made to work for your good. *Everything* that happens to you will be made to strengthen your faith, deepen your conviction, assure you of His love, and draw you closer to the Lord. **Trust God's promise!**

It means that no matter what happens in your life --- especially the painful things, the suffering, and the heavy burdens, the tragic --- **ALL OF IT, you can have 100% assurance that you will be OK** ... even if you die. When you trust this promise from your King, you can **remain faithful** to Him and **patiently endure** whatever comes your way. Your life is in the King's hands, and He has promised to watch over you and use His mighty, divine power to make all things work for your good and for your benefit. **Trust God's Promise!**

LAST DAY: THE KINGDOM OF GLORY

A third way that you will see Jesus your King's power in your life is when He returns on the Last Day. On that Last Day – *which is approaching quickly, and may be here at any time* --- Jesus will show His power in two ways.

1. First, He will judge the unbelieving world. Finally, **all evil, all corruption, all rebellion, and all depravity** will be *judged, condemned and punished*. Satan, his demons, and all who follow them will finally be held accountable and cast into the fires of hell. Never again will we ever hear, see, or be tempted by such depraved rebellion, idolatry, or immorality. King Jesus will use His mighty power and divine authority to *judge, condemn, and punish* the unbelieving world.

2. Second, Jesus the King will use His mighty power to raise and glorify our dead bodies and bring us into our heavenly home. You will be safe and sound in the Kingdom of Heaven in the immediate presence of the King and with your loved ones who have died in faith. Everything that happens to you on earth is meant to get you safely home to Heaven.

All of this will happen on the Last Day, when we will see the King in the clouds of Heaven, with all His mighty angels, and His divine power will be seen by every single person ever conceived.

Jesus is our King who has **complete authority** and **full divine power** over all things. It means that He uses His **omnipotent power** to benefit you and for your good.

ONE OTHER THING.

The theme of “**Jesus the King**” *transitions* from one church year to another. As we wrap up this current Church Year with a focus on Jesus the King over all things, we will start a new Church Year *next Sunday* with the promises of Jesus the King coming into the world.

The word “Advent” actually means the “arrival of the King”, and it begins our preparation for the King being born in Bethlehem! Next Sunday, Advent will begin a new Church year cycle once again, as we remember the story of the King – beginning with the Old Testament promises of His coming and His humble birth in Bethlehem. **The Church year will lead us through His Life and His teachings and finally back to return on the Last Day as the King of all kings and Lord of all lords!**

Jesus is your King!

And He promises to use His mighty, divine, and omnipotent power to set you free from sin, to make all things work for your good and benefit, and to ultimately bring you safe and sound to His Kingdom of Heaven!

Live your life in the ways of His Kingdom! Amen!