Christ the King Matthew 27:27-31
November 22, 2020 727*-216-370/217-341
*CW-S – "There Is a Higher Throne"

Rejoice in Christ Your King!
I. Your King so determined to save you.
II. Your King so faithful to His Word.

Dear Christian friends,

Today we come to the end of another church year. Over the **past twelve months** we've reviewed the BASIC FACTS of **Jesus'** life – facts that are the very foundation of our Christian faith and hope. We've seen Jesus born in Bethlehem – **seen** Him grow up and live a **holy, sinless** life. We've seen Jesus' miracles revealing BOTH His **almighty power** and His **gracious love**. We've followed Jesus to Jerusalem. We've stood at His cross. We've **seen** our Savior come out of His grave alive and victorious and ascend triumphantly into heaven. We've **seen Jesus** keep His promise to **send** the Holy Spirit to both guide and **empower** us. We've reviewed OUR NEW LIFE in Jesus. We've heard again His promises to **come again** and **take us** to live forever with Him in heaven. It's BEEN SO GOOD to see those FAMILIAR SIGHTS – to hear those PRECIOUS PROMISES.

"Hail, King of the Jews!" the soldiers mocked Jesus. But with what we've ALL SEEN and **heard** we rejoice! We rejoice not only that Christ is THE King – but that He is YOUR King – **my** King. We have good reasons to rejoice. REJOICE in Christ 1)your King so determined to **save** you – 2)your King so faithful to **His Word**.

I. Your King so determined to save you.

As you hear the words CLEARLY picture them in your mind. ***"Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They put a staff in His right hand, knelt in front of Him, and mocked Him by saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spit on Him, took the staff, and hit Him repeatedly on His head."***

Do you have the picture in your mind? Jesus looks SO PATHETIC! **All of this** was purposely done to HUMILIATE Jesus – to make Jesus look and **feel** like SUCH A LOSER. **So** Jesus does look here! **Many** still see Jesus as a loser. They see being a Christian and living for Jesus as a WASTE of time.

Pilate had ANOTHER REASON for **so humiliating** Jesus. This was Pilate's last desperate attempt to **save Jesus** from the cross. Pilate knew Jesus was innocent. Pilate knew that ***"it was out of envy"*** that the chief priests wanted Jesus dead. Pilate **knew** that he SHOULD RELEASE Jesus **immediately**. But the chief priests had whipped the crowd into **such a frenzy**. Pilate was DESPERATE. He HOPES that by scourging and **mocking** Jesus he can satisfy the **priests' hatred** for Jesus. Pilate was TRYING TO SAVE Jesus! But Jesus DIDN'T NEED to be saved. Pilate needed to be saved. A world of sinners needed to be saved. WE **needed** to be saved.

We see Jesus ON TRIAL **before Pilate**. We ALSO need to see the world – you and **me included!** – on trial **before God**. The charges against us are **serious** – DEFYING our **Creator** – rebelling against our God. The evidence against us is **overwhelming**. Just take your life last week and compare it to God's call, ***"Be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy."*** Does ***"holy"*** really describe EVERY MINUTE and **every area** of your life last week? Listen again to God's call to ***"love Him with all – ALL! – your heart, soul, mind."*** If you could replay a video of your life last week would you see SUCH A TOTAL love for God? The charges against us carry the ETERNAL **death sentence**. ANYTHING LESS than a **perfect love** and **total obedience** means we are GUILTY AS CHARGED and we should hear

the **just Judge** of all PRONOUNCE SENTENCE, ***"Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."***

Do you still have that picture of Jesus CLEARLY in your mind? Don't cringe to see this. REJOICE to **see your** King so determined to save you! Jesus was not just on trial BEFORE PILATE. Jesus was also on trial BEFORE GOD – taking our place **in our trial** before God. Pilate knew Jesus was **innocent**. God the Father also knew that His ***"beloved Son"*** was totally innocent. God the Father had declared that He was ***"well pleased"*** with Jesus' life. But SEE THE LOVE – and determination! – of Jesus to SAVE US GUILTY sinners! It's that great exchange of the gospel. Jesus gives us **all the credit** for His ***"righteousness"*** – His perfect life. Jesus takes the blame and the punishment for the sins of the whole world. Jesus is condemned BY His **Father** – **condemned** FOR our sins. Jesus is sentenced to the **death and hell** WE had coming. ***"Then they led Him away to crucify Him."***

REJOICE that Jesus is YOUR King so determined to save you. Because Jesus went that way of the cross – **because** Jesus sacrificed His holy life – shed His precious blood – **because** Jesus was ***"forsaken"*** by His Father – God HAS FORGIVEN **all** sins of **all** people. Trusting in Jesus as your **Savior** and **King** you can BE ABSOLUTELY SURE of God's forgiveness of **every single one** of your sins. Your Savior wants you SO SURE of His **love** and **forgiveness** that He again and again invites you to ***"take eat and drink"*** the very same body and blood He gave into death on the cross ***"for the forgiveness"*** of all our sins.

REJOICE that Jesus is YOUR King! The soldiers saw Jesus as a **loser**. Many still see Jesus as a **loser** and want nothing to do with Him. But BY FAITH we see this and **we see** what a love God has for us. Don't foolishly measure God's love by HOW GOOD your **health** is – by how well life is going for you. We FIND God's love at the cross. ***"God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all."***

II. Your King so faithful to His Word.

"The SOLDIERS took Jesus into the Praetorium. THEY stripped Him – THEY put a scarlet robe on Him – THEY set a crown of thorns on His head. THEY mocked Him – THEY spit on Him – THEY struck Him on the head again and again. THEY led Him away to crucify Him." Go back to that picture of **all this** in your mind. Seeing this - WHO is clearly in charge? OBVIOUSLY the soldiers! EVERYBODY can see that!

Take another look – the LOOK OF FAITH – and rejoice in what you see. See Jesus IN CONTROL – see Jesus working all things **according** to His plans. SEE – rejoice! – in Christ YOUR King so faithful to His Word. Months before this Jesus had BLUNTLY and CLEARLY told His disciples, ***"We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn Him to death and will turn Him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day He will be raised to life!"***

Jesus' whole life is LIVING PROOF of God's faithfulness to His Word. From Jesus' humble, virgin birth in **Bethlehem** to His being ***"pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities"*** – AND ON TO His coming out of His grave alive on Easter morning ***"just as He said"*** He would – Jesus' life is a LOUD, RESOUNDING ***"all this took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets."*** See all this and REJOICE TO SEE your God always in control – your God always working ALL things **according to** HIS plans and HIS **schedule** and HIS **promises**.

REJOICE to see that this is also true about OUR lives. Be honest. We DON'T always see God **in control** – God faithfully keeping His promises. IF WE DID see that we wouldn't worry and fret the way we sometimes do. But INSTEAD OF SEEING **Christ our King** in control and so faithful to His Word – we watch the news on TV – we read the newspaper – we struggle with HEALTH problems – **financial** problems – **marital** problems – problems at work or **at school**. We get BANGED UP. Life can be SO

UNFAIR – so CRUEL – so OUT OF CONTROL. We wonder – we worry – we get depressed and **discouraged**. Like broken down Elijah we're ready to pray, ***"I've had enough, LORD. Take my life.*** It's all USELESS."

But instead of wallowing in **self-pity** REJOICE in Christ YOUR King – your King so faithful to His Word. Every week we **confess** and **remind** ourselves that "on the third day Jesus rose again IN ACCORDANCE with the Scriptures" – that Jesus "ascended into heaven and (now) sits at the right hand of the Father." Jesus is not sitting around TWIDDLING His thumbs waiting for Judgment Day to roll around. "Sitting at God's right hand" Jesus is FIRMLY in control of **all** things. Christ OUR KING is ruling over **all** things working **all** things for HIS **eternal glory** and OUR **eternal good**. JUST AS **in these verses** it may not look like that but it's STILL TRUE. **Just as** in these verses everything seems SO UNFAIR see how God worked it **all out** for that FANTASTIC VICTORY of **Easter morning**. So God will work **all** things out **so that** we are His SAINTS TRIUMPHANT on the Last Day.

Every week we ALSO CONFESS and **remind** ourselves that Jesus "will come again **in glory** to judge the living and the dead" – that "we look for the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting." – that Jesus' "kingdom will have **no end**." SO IT WILL HAPPEN because Christ OUR KING is so faithful to His Word!

Rejoice in what Christ YOUR KING has all promised you. Go back to **last Sunday's** epistle reading/sermon from 1 Thessalonians 4. ***"According to the Lord's own word we tell you that …the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord."***

That's not WISHFUL THINKING. That's not denying the REAL HURTS and **real problems** of this real world that we live in. This is the REAL JOY – and the REAL CONFIDENCE – of having Christ as OUR King – our King so determined to **save us** – so faithful to **His Word**. Amen.

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