



## Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

[www.mzluth.org](http://www.mzluth.org)

November 25, 2007

Last Sunday of End Time

Colossians 1:13-20

Pastor Randy Ott

First Lesson: Jeremiah 23:2-6

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 98

Second Lesson: Colossians 1:13-20

Gospel: Luke 23:35-43

### Hail to the Supreme King

Take a journey in your mind back to Medieval England where kings were ruling. The invader had come from across the channel and had conquered your town, and then the king led his army and came and delivered your people. What did they always shout to the king? Wasn't it "Hail to the King" or something like that? How are you going to shout "Hail to the King" as he comes through your town after chasing out the invaders? Are you going to mumble it or stumble over it a little bit? "Hail to the king, really nice, good to see you, thanks for coming," or is there going to be a little bit of gusto in your voice as you shout out "Hail to the King" with all your worth?

Now on the other side of the equation—the king just came and conquered your town. You are a foreign country. Now he comes through town and you have to say, "Hail to the king" to him. Is your heart in it? Do you just have to say it hoping he doesn't notice that there is some vile and venom in your eyes and bitterness as you look at him?

You can say "Hail to the King" and just be going through the motions, or you can say it and have your heart in it and in reality, you and I do that almost every week that we worship here. Do you know where we say, "Hail to the King"? Each week in our service on Sunday morning, after we hear the Words of our King, the Words of his life—the Gospel—we have the Gospel acclamation, "Praise be to you oh Lord."

So this morning, which one were you? Singing it with gusto or kind of mumbling it because that is what we do at that point of the service?

As we look at Christ the King Sunday and as we look at these words that Paul wrote to the Colossians, he was explaining to the Colossians, and it's also there for us, why we have every reason to sing out with gusto "Hail to the Supreme King," because Christ as our King is the supreme king. There is none like him, nor will there ever be. God lays that out for us crystal clear this morning. He reminds us that he is superior. He is supreme because he created all things. All things come through him and all things exist for him, but even more than that, for you and me who know that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away not only the sins of the world, but our sins personally through Spirit-given faith, he is our King because he is also our redeemer.

Did you ever have the experience of misunderstanding who was in charge? You are talking to someone and you think that they are the one in charge. You are making your pitch or plea or case, whatever it might be, and as you are doing it you kind of disregard, push aside, or run down someone else. Then you find out later that that is

actually the person that is really in charge and the person that you were talking to is just an underling. The one you were trying to smooth away with is under this other person that you were running down. How would you feel?

If you've ever had that experience, or if you can begin to imagine what that would be like, then you understand what the Colossians felt like as they heard this first chapter of Paul's letter read to them. Now you can be in their sandals as they hear it. In Colosse there had been some false teachers that had come in and one of the things in this heresy that had crept into the church in Colosse was that, "Jesus is nice and all, but it's angels, it's thrones and authorities that actually rule over the affairs of things on this earth. You need to worship those angels. You need to pray to them that they would intercede between God and the people to make life on this earth better." If that is what you think, what have you done with Jesus? You've really kind of pushed him off to the side, right? You've downplayed his redemption.

Now put yourself in their sandals as you hear these words. *He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.* (Colossians 1:15-17.) You are sitting there in Colosse gathered with your fellow believers and you hear those words from the apostle Paul. Do you think a little shiver might go up your spine because, "Oops! We got it wrong! We are elevating something above the one who is supreme to everything. The One who created all things, the One through whom everything has their existence, the One whom everything is not only created by, but created for, he is the supreme King who is over all of these things. That is really the whole theme of Paul's letter to the Colossians—Christ is supreme. He is superior to the angels. Christ is superior to Moses. Christ is supreme.

Okay, now you are thinking "that's nice, but I'm a lot smarter than the Colossians. I never, ever thought angels were supreme." Now many around us certainly do, but that being said, do you and I ever look to something else for our confidence, for our comfort, for our direction? Do we look for other things besides our King as though they are going to take care of us? Oh sure, there are those people out there, I suppose you would say, that look at their horoscopes, but that's certainly not us, right? Do you ever find yourself seeing random things that happen in life and think it's a sign from God? God telling you to do this or God telling you to do that? Do you ever try to find your answers to life's problems in some of these other places except the Word and Sacrament?

If we are looking for God speaking to us in other places, God has never told us he is going to. He said, "These are the Scriptures that testify about me." He said, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." He said, "Don't give up meeting together, but encourage one another, and you encourage one another with the Gospel." But sometimes we start looking around in other areas to find our directions and our solutions. We listen to other advice. We look to other people. We elevate other people above God, and when we do so, we sin. We aren't viewing Christ as the King. We might give him lip service, but all too often in our lives we go chasing in other directions and try to find help from created things instead of the Creator.

God has given us access into his grace as we talked about on Thanksgiving Day on one of the seasons of the church year, in Lent I believe it was. We have access into his grace. We don't have to go to the created things. We can go directly to our Creator because of what God has done for us. God is supreme. Jesus is the one that has created all things and that everything has been created for. In everything he has the supremacy.

So it only stands to reason that you and I, who call ourselves "little Christ" as we say we are "Christians," are going to want to know him better. We are going to want to walk closer to him in his Word and his Sacrament and find there forgiveness for the times that we have chased after other things and for the times when we actually stood shoulder to shoulder with the Colossians and looked at other things instead of God for our confidence even when we didn't realize that was what we were doing. And the amazing thing is, that amazing grace that we just sang about, his grace that washes away our sins in spite of who we are, and that also is why Christ is the King that is supreme above all things because even though he is the One who created all things, he became one of us. He lived in our place. He shed his blood so that he might make peace. He shed it on the cross. He endured the insults and the scorn and the ridicule that we heard about in our Gospel today. He lived perfectly in our place so that he might make redemption, or buy us back from our sins. He reconciled us to God. We rebel against God. We are born rebelling against God and yet Jesus was perfect in our place and died in our place. He is our supreme King because he loves us beyond any love we can lay claim to. He gives us blessings beyond any blessing we have right to lay claim to. He gives us an eternal blessing of the forgiveness of sins; which means those who die in the Lord are with their Lord forever. That is how he has reconciled us. That is how he has made peace. That's the incredible gifts he gives to us. That's why he is supreme.

As you and I are reminded more and more through God's Law of how little we deserve it and through God's Gospel of how freely he has given it, then you and I want to scream "Hail to the King" over and over; not just as we sing in church, but in our daily lives as we encourage and comfort one another and as we point one another to Christ. We are really saying, "Hail to the King!" As we serve with our gifts and abilities, whether people pat us on the back or not, we are saying, "Hail to the King!" We respond to the love he has shown to us by living for him and saying "Hail to the King" in everything that we think, say and do.

Then, when we fall short, and when we fail to serve him in the way that he would have us, when our imperfection creeps into our service to God, God comes to us again and says, "Depart in peace. Your sins are forgiven through faith in Christ Jesus." That leads us all the more to want to serve the King who is supreme and has supremacy over everything.