



MORRISON ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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December 14, 2011
Midweek Advent Worship
Pastor Randy Ott

First Lesson: [1 Samuel 9:26-10:1](#)
Sermon Text: [John 18:36-37](#)

The Anointed One is A King Who Is Out Of This World

For three weeks now on Wednesdays we've been getting together and looking at what God had to say about his holiday list so to speak. His list isn't like ours. We make lists (or at least we probably used to as kids) of what we want, not what we are going to get, right? God made lists for us of what the Messiah, the coming Anointed One would be, and he pictured it for his Old Testament people as he had people anointed into various offices. We've looked at Priest. We've looked at Prophet. Now this evening we saw how in the Old Testament he had Saul anointed to be leader over God's inheritance. All that was a picture of the King that would come who would be installed on Zion, his holy hill (what we sang about in Psalm 2). The coming Messiah, the coming Anointed One would be anointed to be our King, our Leader, like we just sang in the Hymn, *Christ Be My Leader*. Through all areas of our life, he is our King, he is our Lord, he is our Master. We live for him. He rules over us.

But the thing about God's list that we've looked at, Priest, Prophet, and King, is that it wasn't just a one-time thing. It's something that he did while he was here on earth. But it's something he continues to do even as his visible presence has left us. He is a king that is unlike any other king in this world. He is a king that is similar to kings of this world because the king defeats the enemy of his people. That's what our God has done for us. Jesus came and defeated our enemy. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the work of the devil. That's what he did. But he didn't do it by sending out other armies or other people to fight. He destroyed the devil's work by himself, living perfectly in our place and then dying with all the guilt of our sins, and he won the victory by appearing to be defeated. He is a king that is unlike any other that we could possibly imagine.

That's what we hear Jesus himself saying when he was talking to Pilate. "My kingdom is not of this world." The Anointed King who came is a king who is out of this world. We see that in what Jesus said because he is a king who comes to testify to the truth. Think about that for a minute.

Leaders, kings, politicians today, do they testify to "the truth"? Or do they testify to a truth that will win them favor or get them reelected, a truth that is malleable, a truth that is not absolute. The truth changes at times with politicians today depending on what the latest poll numbers say and on what people want to hear.

Our King testifies to "the truth" he told Pilate. He came into this world to be a king that was not of this world, a king who was concerned about absolute truth. Absolute truth

centers on you and me, and it centers on God. The absolute truth about you and me is that we should never be a part of God's kingdom. There's no way in the world that you and I should be able to say, "Yes, that's my Lord, my Lord, my King." Think of how often we say that in worship. *We ask this through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.* Think of how often we say *Lord*. We are saying that Jesus is our King. You and I should never be able to say that because you and I are born sinners, separated from God. You and I are born with a bad attitude towards God. You and I are born spiritually dead. We don't want anything to do with God. He is holy. We aren't. We know it. And it irks us that he thinks we should be holy too. That's what each of us is like by nature.

The absolute truth is that God did everything to make us a part of his kingdom. We did nothing. We simply receive this incredible gift that the Spirit worked in our hearts when he gave us the gift of faith that Jesus is our Savior. This is the truth. We've done nothing. He's done it all. It's a glorious truth. It's a comforting truth. But make no mistake about it, it is absolute truth. There is no other way to heaven except through Jesus.

So he came to testify to that truth. *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* ([John 14:6](#).) He's a king that is out of this world because he is concerned first and foremost about his servants and giving them blessings that are immeasurable, or on this side of heaven not completely understandable. You and I won't understand what it means to be a part of God's kingdom completely until we enjoy it fully when we are with our God in heaven.

This is the other part of this glorious truth about our King that is out of this world. Our King that is out of this world not only testifies to the truth, but he says *"Everyone on this side of truth listens to me."* Scripture tells us that God rules over everything for those who listen to the truth. To those the Spirit works faith in their heart, we have a King who is out of this world who not only defeated our enemies like a king would do, but now that he has ascended into heaven, he still continues to rule over everything for the benefit of the church. He serves as our King yet today by ruling a kingdom that can't be seen and can't be measured in this world. Jesus once said, "If people say to you 'There's the kingdom' or 'There's the kingdom of God over there,' don't listen to them. They don't know what they are talking about. The kingdom of God is within you." It's Jesus' rule in our heart through faith. While we live on this side of heaven, it's a kingdom of faith. It's not a kingdom of sight. In fact, some of the things we see on this side of heaven cause us to wonder, is God really a king who is in control? Sometimes it seems like he lets stuff happen that cause us, as sinners, to say "Really God? Are you really in control?"

But the truth is that the one who lived and died for us was raised from the dead, and that power that raised him from the dead, it says in Ephesians, God exerted when he also then set him at his right hand. It says, *"when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to*

be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.” ([Ephesians 1:19-23](#).) That passage in Ephesians tells us that when Jesus has ascended into heaven and he is at the right hand of God, that position of power and authority, he is using his full divine power and authority to rule everything for the church, which is the believers.

As we live in this world, we have a king who still serves us. He has already defeated our enemy, the devil, but now he uses everything for our eternal good to bring us closer to him. Like I said, as sinners, you and I don't always see that. You and I think we could do a better job of being God. You and I think that God isn't always a king that is ruling in the best way. We think "God, why did you let this happen?" Or "Why did you let that happen?" That's why on this side of heaven it's a matter of faith and not sight. We simply have to believe what God says is true. Any by his Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we believe it. But there are times we need that reminder from our fellow Christians. We need it from the Word of God. We need the strength that God can only give to us through his Word and through his Sacraments to trust God more fully, more deeply. That difficulty that is troubling us, if it leads us to rely more on God and less on ourselves, it's for our eternal good. That thing we are struggling with that keeps us awake at night, he's still in charge and he's still ruling over everything for our benefit, for us, because when we see just how weak we are and we can't handle things on our own, that means we have to rely more on our King. We have to say, "Lord, do what I can't. Help me through this." If it leads us to be closer to him, our King is leading us in such a way not that we have glory and everything perfect on this side of heaven, but sometimes he has to kind of smack us up a little bit and allow some difficulty into our lives so that we understand that this isn't our home. Heaven is, and our number one job on this side of heaven is to stay close to our King and say, "Lord, you've said it. I believe it. That's it."

So we put our trust in God and say, "Lord, forgive us for the times we've doubted you." Then we know in his Word and in his blood he has washed away those sins. So then in our weakness we become stronger because we rely on his strength. We have a king whose strength is also out of this world. We have the King who said, "Let there be," and there was. He is the King who destroyed the works of the devil. We have the King who has given us the gift of heaven when we were his enemies. Since he has brought us into his kingdom, we can trust he'll keep us in this kingdom as we make use of those tools that he has given us, the Word and the Sacrament.

We know that our God will certainly bless us as we listen to the truth.