

# **From Darkness to the Dominion of Christ**

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**November 23, 2025**

## **Introduction**

Today marks a pivotal day in the Christian calendar—Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday before Advent. It signals the end of the liturgical year by honoring Jesus as our King and begins the countdown to His birth. In a world full of competing kings, declaring Christ as King is profound. Is he the same as past rulers? Who has truly governed humanity's history? As disciples, we affirm Jesus' reign, but our actions reveal who truly rules our hearts. Why does Jesus remain our King, and what makes that special? Amid uncertainties, divisions, and fears, we are called to lift our eyes from worldly shadows to the One who is the Light that darkness cannot overcome.

### **1. A Promise Born in the Shadows (Jeremiah 23:5–6)**

Our first text takes us back to a time of deep despair. Jeremiah speaks during an age of corrupt kings, failed shepherds, and a nation that had lost its moral insight. The people of Judah had seen their leaders fail

again and again. The shepherds scattered the flock rather than gathering it. Yet into that darkness, God speaks a promise:

“The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.” (Jer. 23:5) The only task specified for the promised king in David’s line is that “ he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.” Let us reiterate and reflect on the word, *A righteous Branch*. It is a fragile, tender, almost unnoticed shoot or a new branch that will grow from a stump that seemed dead. From darkness, a new light will dawn. From the wreckage of failed kingship, God will bring forth a King who shepherds with justice and mercy. And his name, Jeremiah says, will be called:

“The Lord is our righteousness.”

Not “we are righteous,” but “the Lord is our righteousness.”

This is a radical shift. God takes upon Himself the task of restoring justice, truth, and peace. The prophesied King is not just another political ruler. He is God’s own answer to human failure.

## **2. The Hidden Throne of the Cross that Adorns the King. (Luke 23:33–43)**

Let us now focus on the Gospel reading, where we find the Righteous King on a cross. What kind of throne is this? A rough beam of wood, not gold. A crown of thorns, not jewels. He was surrounded by mocking soldiers, not loyal subjects. The inscription above His head reads, “*This is the King of the Jews.*” They meant it as a joke, but heaven took it seriously.

For here, at Calvary, the true nature of divine kingship is revealed — not domination, but redemption; not control, but compassion.

When one thief mocks Jesus, the other turns in humble faith:

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

And Jesus replies,

“Today you will be with me in paradise.”

Here is the mystery of Christ the King:

His power is not shown in crushing enemies but in embracing the lost.

His authority is not enforced by fear but offered through love. His victory comes not through might, but through mercy.

At the cross, the King of Light stands at the heart of human darkness and transforms it.

### **3. From Darkness to Light (Colossians 1:11–20)**

Paul’s letter to the Colossians describes that transformation in cosmic terms:

“He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son.” (Col. 1:13) We weren't just pulled *out* of darkness—we were deliberately rescued and placed *into* something far greater: the kingdom of Jesus. “Transferred” is a term used to describe people who were moved from one empire to another. It's a total change of one’s immigration status in His Kingdom. That is, we are no longer enslaved people or subjects but free citizens.

What a stunning image — a free being because of a transfer of citizenship.

We were once subjects of darkness — ruled by fear, guilt, and despair.

But Christ has moved us into His kingdom — the kingdom of forgiveness, peace, and eternal hope.

And who is this King? Paul answers with one of the most beautiful hymns in all Scripture:

“He is the image of the invisible God...for in Him all things in heaven and on earth were created...and through Him God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things.” (Col. 1:15–20)

The King we worship is not merely the ruler of nations — He is the Lord of creation, the firstborn from the dead, and the reconciler of all things.

In Christ, every fragment of life — broken, scattered, lost — is being gathered back into the light.

#### **4. Christ, The King’s nature and the nature of His Kingdom (vv. 15–20)**

This next section is one of the most majestic descriptions of Jesus in all of Scripture. Why can we trust this King? Because of **who He is**:

**1. He is the image of the invisible God (v.15)**

– Jesus shows us what God is like.

**2. He is the firstborn over all creation (v.15)**

– Not created, but *preeminent*—He ranks above all.

**3. All things were created through Him and for Him (v.16)**

– He’s not just Savior—He’s Creator. Everything exists for His glory.

**4. He holds all things together (v.17)**

– The universe is not falling apart because Jesus is holding it together.

**5. He is the head of the body, the Church (v.18)**

– We are under His authority, not just individually, but corporately.

**6. Through His blood, peace was made (v.20)**

– His cross is the door through which we walk from darkness into dominion.

**5. Living Under the Reign of the King**

Proclaiming Christ as King is not just looking to heaven — it's living differently now by following Him. What does it mean to follow Christ, the king? We see a hint from the second criminal crucified with Jesus: "Jesus," he says, "remember me when You come into Your kingdom." We don't know what inspired this faith of the unknown sinner on a cross at Golgotha; perhaps he had known Jesus before, heard of His teachings, or witnessed His acts of healing and mercy for the poor and outcast. Maybe he had never seen Jesus but was moved by His divine presence. Whatever the reason, this man asks Jesus to remember him in His kingdom, even when there was little evidence that Jesus was heir to any kingdom at that time and place. To follow this King is to put one's trust in Him and Him alone; even when doing so seems to defy what we know to be wisdom; even when to do so runs counter to what the world says is right.

## **Conclusion**

Friends, as we end this Christian year, let us remember Jeremiah's promise:

“The Lord is our righteousness.” In the shadows of this world, where injustice and fear often seem to reign, we proclaim another reality:

**Christ is King. His light still shines. His mercy still reigns. His Kingdom is coming.**

So let us walk forward into Advent with eyes open and hearts ready — ready for the light that is coming, prepared for the King who reigns in love, and ready to move from darkness to light.