



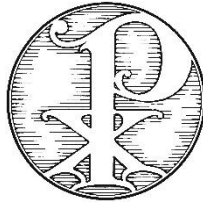
ABOUT THE PROPER

An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service



Christ the King

November 24, 2024



A King Unlike Any Other

Never could there be a king like Christ, our king. Beyond all comparison is the rule he exercises in time and in eternity. Incomparably great therefore is also our joy in worshipping him even now as we await his triumphant return to transform our worship in faith and under the cross to worship in sight and in glory.

First Reading Daniel 7:13,14

Christ has always been the one center and the entire focus of all history. That was true in Daniel's time and will still be true at the end of time. Thus in a very real sense there is no other king—never has been, never will be. As he is, so is his kingdom. Oh, how foolish those little men, who strut their moment on history's stage and imagine that history is about them. Oh, how foolish I am when I do the same! But to be called by the gospel in his kingdom and under his gracious rule, then to worship and serve him in his kingdom, that's what life is about! That alone gives life true focus, true purpose and noble and glorious end.

Second Reading Revelation 1:4b-8

Of all the magnificent ways in which Christ could have shown his glory, he picked this one: to redeem us by his suffering and death that we should live with him for all eternity! All by itself that defines the nature of grace. How we long to see him as he is, to perfectly worship him whose greatest triumph was the cross for us and for our salvation! Some day we shall; for he has promised it, he who is our King, the center of all that can be spoken that is true and good, the ruler of time and eternity.

Gospel John 18:33-37

As the king is like none other, so his kingdom is also like none other. Ruled over by a king who even now appears so lowly and powerless, the kingdom is concerned with what is important to the king. And what is that? The truth! For it is by truth of the gospel, not the power of this world and its rulers, that he saves. Unconcerned with his appearance of impotence and unconcerned as well with our own appearance in weakness, we press forward to hear the truth, to hold to it, to share it and to die in its possession for life eternal.

Psalm of the Day⁴ Psalm 95 A "The Rock of Our Salvation"

The Church sings Psalm 95 in services that praise God as the source of the water of life and the rock of our eternal salvation. The psalm connects joyful worship of God with penitent listening to his Word. Martin Luther said, "Psalm 95 is a prophecy of Christ. The letter to the Hebrews cites a large portion of it as a prophecy of the time of the New Testament and of the voice of the gospel. It educates and entices us to Christ and to the Word of God as proper worship. Christ has made us and is our shepherd, and we are his sheep."

Gospel Acclamation Revelation 11:15

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign forever and ever."

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, by your victory you have broken the power of the evil one. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim you King of kings and Lord of lords to your unending praise and glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of the Day 531 “The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns” (Thomas Kelly, 1769-1855)

Church Year Season¹ Season after Pentecost

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons cover a great body of doctrine for faith and life.

Minor Festivals St. Andrew, Apostle (November 30)

Andrew and John were the first apostles to follow Christ (John 1:35-40). Andrew told his brother, Simon Peter that he had found the Messiah (John 1:42), and both were later called by Jesus to be “fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). Tradition states that Andrew was martyred (perhaps on November 30th) on a special kind of cross (in the shape of an “X”) which has ever since borne his name. St. Andrew’s Day has been observed by the Christian Church as far back as the 4th century.

Colors & Symbolism White

White is the color of our Triune God and heaven. It also symbolizes joy, celebration, gladness, light, purity and innocence. We receive these blessings through faith because Christ, our righteousness Savior, has forgiven all our sins.

Nain Paraments Easter

Superfrontal: Alleluia is a taken from a Hebrew word which means, “Praise the LORD.” It is a word of joy and gladness and most commonly used in the Psalms (e.g. 103). An ancient custom is to refrain from using the term during Lent in order to distinguish the penitential nature of that season from the joy and hope filled nature of the Easter season that follows. The vines and vegetation branching out from the *Alleluia* represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

Lectern antependium: The doves flying in front of the cross represent purity, innocence (Matthew 10:16), as well as spiritual and eternal rest (Psalm 55:6). When the dove has an olive branch or leaf in its beak, it is a symbol of hope and peace (Genesis 8:11). Each of these blessings and more come by Jesus’ death on the cross and through the gift of faith (Galatians 1:3,4).

Pulpit antependium: The cross is formed by the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho (P). Chi and Rho are the first two letters in the Greek word for Christ (Χριστός). This ancient symbol represents Jesus and his office as the Messiah, the anointed King of kings and Savior of the world (Matthew 16:16). The vines and vegetation branching out from the cross represent the spiritual life that Jesus, the vine brings to God’s children, the branches (John 15:5).

¹ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year A”. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

² Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

³ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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