

Anglican Church Noosa
Confronting Jesus
Jesus the King
Sunshine & Tewantin Sept 7, 2025
Rev'd Lynda Johnson

I'm afraid to say that I'm still not quite used to having Charles as the King.

I was a great fan of Queen Elizabeth and I don't think anybody can quite live up to her.

Do you realise that tomorrow is the 3rd anniversary of her death.

I loved her dignity, her consistency, her integrity, her demeanour, and most of all - I loved her faith, and how publicly she lived it and declared it.

Her faith was inspiring.

She was a sovereign who knew her place under the ultimate sovereign, King Jesus.

I know I've said this before but the last hymn she chose for her amazing funeral spoke far more profoundly than anything else could have.

She chose "Love divine, all loves excelling" - and as the words of the last verse rang through Westminster Abbey - I was sitting watching the tv with tears rolling down my face as the words were sung -

Changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place
till we cast our crowns before thee
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Here was the human sovereign, naming to the world that her sovereign, her king, was Jesus, and she was casting all her crowns, of which she had many, she was casting all her crowns before him, worshipping him at his throne in heaven, lost in wonder, love and praise.

So let's together confront this Jesus, and be confronted by him as we see who he is as King.

Right through the Old Testament God is seen as King. Both implicitly and explicitly.

But in Israel's checkered history there was a time when they demanded that they have a human king just like all the other countries around them.

Now while this was a clear rejection of **God** as their King, he allowed them to pursue this form of government and structure, while also warning them of the dangers.

And throughout the centuries there were good kings and bad kings.

The first one was King Saul, and overall that didn't go too well.

But following him was King David, who was called the man after God's own heart.

A couple of years ago we did a series on David.

His kingship was a great one.

Although he didn't always do well, overall his reign brought about the golden years of Israel's history.

His kingship was seen as the greatest, and we know through the Bible that Jesus is referred to as being in the line of David.

Today we heard readings from Daniel, Philippians and Matthew. We could read Scriptures for nearly the whole day to get through all the passages that open up for us that Jesus is King.

The Daniel reading is hugely significant for our understanding of Jesus. These couple of verses point to Jesus as the one coming to deal with the world in judgment.

There would be one who would come to disarm the principalities of the world and bring in the just and everlasting kingdom of the Most High. This would be a human messianic figure - the Son of Man.

And this is what the Jews were anticipating.

They wanted an end to the world's kingdoms by the establishment of God's kingdom.

But when Jesus comes and enters the synagogue, and reads from the scroll of Isaiah Luke 4:20 and 21 tells us —

"Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing'."

He is declaring that **he** is the King in God's Kingdom.

And Jesus kept talking about the Kingdom throughout his ministry.

Matthew 3:2 - Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near

Matthew 4:17 - Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near

Matthew 10:7 - as you go, proclaim this message The kingdom of heaven has come near

Mark 1:15 - the time has come, the kingdom of heaven has come near, repent and believe the good news.

Jesus is the King, talking a lot about his kingdom.

In Matthew 16 which we read today - Jesus asks the critical question of his disciples - who do people say I am?

And they told him things that showed people thought very highly of him - comparing him to prophets and John the Baptist.

But then Jesus asked them - 'Who do **you** say I am?

and Peter declared - "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Now the old and new testaments use the words Messiah and Christ, one Hebrew one Greek, which mean 'the anointed one'.

Anointing with oil was the official sign that a person was to be King.

So when we use the term Jesus Christ - we are saying Jesus, the anointed One, in other words - Jesus the King.

But what kind of a king was Jesus?

If the Jewish people were looking for a messianic figure to overthrow the kingdoms of the world - is that what they got in Jesus?

Philippians 2 shows us what Jesus is like as king.

He was a servant king; made himself nothing; even went to a cross.

How could that be the king they were waiting for?

But Philippians 2 goes on to say that **because** he was like this ... God acted - **THEREFORE** - God exalted him to the highest place, and gave him the name above every name, that at the name of Jesus **every. knee. should. bow.** in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

One of the most moving parts of a coronation service is the time of the anointing.

For Queen Elizabeth the grand cape was removed and she had on a simple white dress.

For King Charles, we saw the layers of grand robes removed, until he was wearing a simple white shirt.

For both of them, this was a sign of humility before their great God - King Jesus.

A canopy was brought down above and around Elizabeth, as this part of the service was sacred, it was just her, the Archbishop and God. The public didn't see it.

For King Charles it was a three sided shield, and no one saw the actual anointing except the Archbishop of Canterbury who did the task.

And the fact that this ceremony is done in a state of humility is a picture of the kind of Messiah, the kind of Christ, the kind of King that God brings to the world.

It's a sign of a human sovereign being under the authority of a greater authority - but an authority who stooped to become human, who gave up everything, who went to the cross.

Let's go back to Matthew 16. When Peter answers Jesus saying 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God' Jesus blesses him.

And then declares that Peter is the rock upon which the Church will be built, and the keys to the Kingdom will be his.

But more important than that, Jesus goes on to explain to Peter and his disciples that the next steps for him will be steps of humility, steps of suffering

This is a foretaste of what Jesus' ministry will be as King in his kingdom. His crown is a crown of thorns. That's the only earthly crown our great King received.

He humbled himself, by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross.

The question that Jesus asked his disciples is a question we all need to answer.

Who do YOU say Jesus is?

I asked Jennie King to think about that question - and she has graciously said she is happy to share her answer with you all. I invite Jennie to come and share now Jennie who do you say Jesus is?

Good Morning!

I will try to briefly put into words what it means to have Jesus as my King!

Faith and belief in WHO Jesus is, came first when I heard the story of how Jesus died in my place, as I listened to God's word being preached..... This came with the strong conviction that what I was hearing that day was THE TRUTH...not 'a truth', but THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH...and I knew in that moment that I needed to make a decision whether or not to entrust my life to Jesus, He was speaking to me through His word.

I did consciously ask God for forgiveness and put my trust in what Jesus had done for me, which was the start of a new life, and I was conscious of my attitudes and thoughts about Life being very different from then on. My direction in life had changed. I was seeing life from an eternal perspective.

I also learned a key thingand it is - that I can take God at His word; and that He wants me to do that!

I realised that His word applies to my life. I felt God speaking to me when I read His word.

I learned that Jesus has the title King of Kings. He has authority over everything in all creation.

He is all powerful - no task is too difficult for Him. I learned that I was now in a new Kingdom, God's Kingdom and Jesus is King.

I'm no longer floundering around trying to 'figure out' this crazy world and my place in it.

I'm not wondering what life really is about, is there a heaven, is God real? I know the King of Life, I am now a citizen of God's Kingdom, I have been Born Again, Jesus gave me His Spirit and I have full assurance of eternal life, just as Jesus said "I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly" this IS my daily experience, an abundant life. I came to realise that God asks me to obey His word, not just to read it....he's my King, so I owe Him my allegiance, my devotion.

The Holy Spirit, as my spiritual teacher, discloses all the qualities of my Saviour to me. As King of Kings, Jesus's glory is a majestic, powerful majesty to which no earthly king could ever remotely attain. He truly is a King to be worshipped, a Holy God.

This is a tiny glimpse of my experience living life with King Jesus!

So I ask you Who do YOU say Jesus is?

There were varying answers in Jerusalem in his final week. When he rode the donkey into Jerusalem all the people were hailing him as a King.

'Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.'

That's fantastic. But in the days that followed the tide turned.

It was the Roman governor Pilate who asked him if he was the King of the Jews, and Jesus answered - You have said so.

But it was the Jewish leaders who called for his death, and the Roman soldiers mockingly gave him the crown of thorns and said - Hail - King of the Jews.

At the top of the cross when he was crucified, they pinned a sign which said "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Rebecca McLaughlin says - *"The accusation was completely accurate. But crucifixion wasn't the stamp of failure on Jesus the King. It was the arena where he won his victory."*

Psalms 21 is thought to be a Coronation Psalm and it's quite beautiful. I recommend that you read it at home. It begins with the words *"The king rejoices in your strength, Lord. How great is his joy in the victories you give!"*

And it ends with these words - *"Be exalted in your strength, Lord; we will sing and praise your might."*

But interestingly, on the cross, Jesus uses words from the very next Psalm - Psalm 22. When he quotes verse 1 -

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

It is no mistake that these two Psalms are consecutive in the scriptures. A coronation Psalm fit for a king, followed by a Psalm of distress and suffering. And both have Jesus embedded in them.

Malcolm Guite (chaplain at Girton College in Cambridge) has written a beautiful poem reflecting on Psalm 21, and I'd like you to listen to it in his own voice ...

Now may you find in Christ, riches *and* rest
May you be blessed in him, and he in you
In Heaven, where to grant you your request

Is always blessing, for your heart is true:
True to yourself and true to Christ your king.
Breathe through this coronation psalm and view

The glory of his golden crown, then sing
The exaltation, goodness, life and power,
The blessing and salvation Christ will bring.

But first he wears a darker crown. The hour
Is coming and has come. Our Lord comes down
Into the heart of all our hurts to wear

With us the sharp *corona spina*, crown
Of thorns, and to descend with us to death
Before he shares with us the golden crown.

But I can't finish like that. Because the absolutely glorious thing is that there is a victory for our King.

Revelation paints that picture where we have a King of Kings and Lord of lords.

Jesus rose from the dead, he conquered the tomb and Revelation 5 says

"There are thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they were saying:

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

Did you notice how that mirrors the words from Philippians 2 'that at the name of Jesus every knee would bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.'

My friends - who do YOU say that Jesus is?

The end of the story in Revelation gives us a picture which declares that Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

It's a grand picture, and a true picture.

Revelation 17:14 says the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings.

And Revelation 19:16 says "On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

May you know Jesus as King.