

24th November, 2024
Last Sunday after Pentecost

Christ the Lord: The Good Confession made by Jesus Christ

Isaiah 42.1-4
Psalm 72.1-6
Revelation 5.1-10
John 18.33-37

Key Verse: “For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world - to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” – John 18:37

On this last Sunday after Pentecost, we focus on the theme of *Christ the Lord*, looking closely at the good confession made by Jesus Christ Himself. This is a moment for us to recognize the significance of Jesus’ testimony and His unchanging identity as Lord. His statement before Pilate in John 18:37 is a powerful reminder that He came not only as the Son of God but also as the King who bears witness to the truth. In our reflections today, let us seek to understand the depth of Jesus’ confession, His Lordship, and what it means for us to acknowledge *Christ the Lord* as our King.

1. Christ, the Chosen Servant of God – Isaiah 42:1-4

Isaiah 42 introduces us to the “Servant of the Lord,” chosen and upheld by God. In verses 1-4, we see a prophecy about the Messiah, who will bring justice to the nations without lifting His voice or using force. Jesus fulfils this prophecy as the chosen servant who embodies humility, compassion, and righteousness. Unlike earthly kings who assert dominance, Christ’s authority is marked by peace, mercy, and unwavering justice. In making the good confession, Jesus affirms His divine calling and purpose. His identity as *Christ the Lord* is rooted in His mission to be the light for all nations. Jesus demonstrates what true leadership and authority look like - not by force or fear but through sacrificial love and justice. Imagine a leader who does not lead by force but by inspiring others to seek justice, mercy, and humility. This is a reflection of Christ’s leadership. We are called to follow His example and witness, not seeking power for its own sake but offering ourselves as servants in His Kingdom. As we consider *Christ the Lord*, we are invited to embrace this vision of humble service, realizing that true greatness in God’s Kingdom is found not in dominance, but in humility and righteousness.

2. Christ, the Righteous King – Psalm 72:1-6

Psalm 72 presents a picture of a righteous king who rules with justice, defending the poor, rescuing the needy, and breaking the power of oppression. This king brings prosperity to the land and reigns with integrity and compassion. Ultimately, this psalm points to Jesus, who fulfils the ideal of the righteous King. Jesus’ Kingdom is one where justice flows like a river. As *Christ the Lord*, He brings hope to those in despair, healing to the broken-hearted, and mercy to the oppressed. Unlike earthly kingdoms that often favour the powerful, Christ’s

Kingdom lifts up the marginalized and embraces the outcast. Think of a ruler who dedicates their resources to build up those in need, creating opportunities for the vulnerable to flourish. Christ's rule is marked by this generosity and concern for justice. His Kingdom is a place of hope and renewal, where people are valued and loved unconditionally. When we call Jesus *Lord*, we are declaring that His way of justice and compassion is the path we are committed to following. As His people, we are called to uphold these same values, championing justice and mercy in His name.

3. Christ, the Worthy Redeemer – Revelation 5:1-10

In Revelation 5, we encounter a heavenly scene where only Jesus, the Lamb of God, is found worthy to open the scroll and reveal God's redemptive plan. This passage exalts Christ as the one who has triumphed over sin and death, who alone can redeem humanity and fulfil God's purposes. Here, we see that *Christ the Lord* is both King and Redeemer, worthy of all honour and praise. This vision of Jesus as the Lamb who was slain is central to our understanding of His Lordship. He did not seize His position by force; instead, He sacrificed Himself for us. By His blood, He has redeemed people from every tribe, language, people, and nation, making them a "kingdom and priests to our God" (Revelation 5:10). Think of someone who sacrifices everything they have to save another person. This is the kind of love Jesus has shown us. He is our worthy Redeemer, the One who gave His life so we could be set free and live in the fullness of God's love and grace. As we recognize *Christ the Lord* as our Redeemer, we are called to respond in worship, acknowledging that His sacrifice has made us new. We are part of His Kingdom, redeemed and empowered to serve Him and to live out His love in the world.

4. Christ, the Witness to the Truth – John 18:33-37

In our Gospel reading, Jesus stands before Pilate and makes His confession: "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world- to bear witness to the truth" (John 18:37). Jesus boldly affirms His role as a witness to God's truth, a role that ultimately leads Him to the cross. He declares His Kingship, but His Kingdom is "not of this world" (John 18:36).

Jesus' confession before Pilate is a powerful testament to His unwavering commitment to the truth. Despite the threat of suffering and death, He does not waver. As *Christ the Lord*, He is not a political ruler or a military leader but a King who stands for the truth of God's love, justice, and redemption. Consider someone who, even in the face of opposition, stands firm in their beliefs, choosing truth over convenience. Jesus, in His confession, shows us what it means to be steadfast in faith. He remained faithful to His mission, even when it cost Him everything. When we acknowledge *Christ the Lord* as the truth-bearer, we are called to live in alignment with His truth. This means standing for what is right, even when it's difficult, and being witnesses to His love and grace in our daily lives.

Conclusion

Today, as we celebrate *Christ the Lord*, we are reminded of the profound truth and love that Jesus embodies. He is the chosen Servant, the righteous King, the worthy Redeemer, and the witness to God's truth. His Lordship calls us to live in humility, justice, love, and truth. By confessing Jesus as Lord, we commit ourselves to follow Him, to serve others in His name, and to live out His teachings in every area of our lives. On this final Sunday after Pentecost, let us renew our commitment to Christ. May we bear witness to His truth, serve with humility and compassion, and share the good news of His redeeming love. As we declare *Christ the*

Lord, let our lives reflect His Kingdom, a Kingdom not of this world but one that transforms this world through love, justice, and grace.

Prayer

Almighty God, we thank You for revealing Your Son, Jesus Christ, as our Lord and Savior. Today, we acknowledge Him as the chosen Servant, the righteous King, the worthy Redeemer, and the witness to Your truth. Help us to follow in His footsteps, to serve others with humility, to stand for justice, and to be witnesses to His love. Strengthen us to live in faithfulness to His calling, that our lives may bring honour to Your Kingdom.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.