

Living the Word: Colossians 1.11-20

St Paul wants us to understand that the purposes of God have implications for our whole world. Jesus Christ is not just a man; He is God's eternal Son. It was through Christ that God created all things in heaven and on earth. It is in Christ that all things hold together. It is Christ who is the head of the Church, and the King of all creation. It is Christ who reconciles all things to God, through His death on the cross. Jesus Christ is God's way of restoring us to eternal life. St Paul's words are an encouragement to think of our Christian lives as part of God's plan to transform the whole of creation.

From the Fathers – Origen (185 – 254)

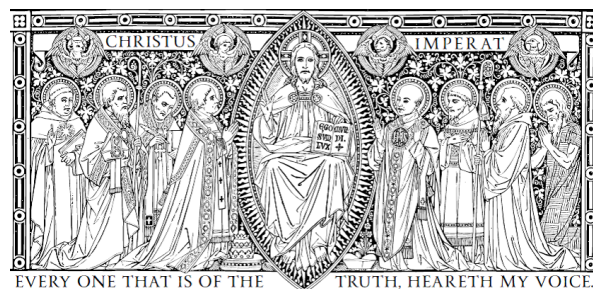
If we wish God to reign in us, in no way should sin reign in our mortal body; rather we should mortify our members which are upon the earth and bear fruit in the Spirit. There should be in us a kind of spiritual paradise where God may walk and be our sole ruler with his Christ. In us the Lord will sit at the right hand of that spiritual power which we wish to receive. And he will sit there until all his enemies who are within us become his footstool, and every principality, power and virtue in us is cast out. All this can happen in each one of us, and the last enemy, death, can be destroyed; then Christ will say in us: O death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your victory? And so what is corruptible in us must be clothed with holiness and incorruptibility; death will be cast out, and our mortality will be clad with the Father's immortality, so that, as God reigns in us, we may truly enjoy the blessings of rebirth and resurrection.



Sunday 23rd Nov. 2025

Christ the King

Gospel: Luke 23: 33 – 43



We may not think it, but to say 'Christ is King' is subversive. If we truly mean it and apply this truth to every aspect of our lives, then it can be dangerously so. It is why there are so many martyrs; if it were a claim without consequence, then we would have few if any martyrs. But Holy Church commemorates 'a noble army of martyrs' precisely because in every age the announcement that Christ is King is to say that no one else is. To say Christ reigns over our lives in a personal way is to say that nothing in all creation has ultimacy; nothing in creation has final sovereignty. That means a radical rejection of every ideology, philosophy, and theory that might claim highest place. He alone – Christus Rex – reigns.

And this reign is both personal in the sense of being over our lives but also universal as it extends to the whole creation. When the Last Times come, all created things will awake to the reality of Christ's victory over death.

Graham Greene's powerful novel 'The Power and the Glory' made prominent the cry, "Viva Cristo Rey!" - "Long live Christ the King!"