

Worship: Christ the King

The Christian Year is coming to a close. The first Sunday of Advent falls upon December 3 this year and also is the first Sunday, or Lord's Day, of the New Christian Year! But we cannot begin the cycle of the new without the ending of the present Christian Year.

We celebrate Christ the King Sunday on ^{Nov. 26,} the thirty fourth Sunday after Pentecost. Although every Sunday is a celebration of the Lordship of Jesus and the Resurrection, Christ the King Sunday evolved in 1925 from a desire to celebrate intentionally our Savior's kingship.

Christ the King Sunday, in addition to other festival seasons, celebrates the manifestation of Christ's presence, the coming of the Kingdom of God. As the culmination of the entire year, it reminds us that our lives, lived faithfully, also will culminate in the union with Christ and the heavenly feast. At once, the celebration reminds us of the reality of the presence of God's kingdom and prepares us for the beginning of Advent, when we celebrate the coming of Christ and God's kingdom.

As Christians, we live each day in the "already" and "not yet" of the Kingdom of God. The celebration of the Christian liturgical year is another way which helps us understand our faith and what it means to us. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Alpha and the Omega, is the beginning and the end of our lives. In the celebration of both Advent and Christ the King, we mark the beginning and the end of the Christian Year with the awareness that Christ was and is and is to come.

- Para Drake
Altar guild