

Jesus is Lord

Jesus Is: Part 4 “Jesus is Lord”

Rev. Cameron D St.Michael – February 7, 2021

5th Sunday After Epiphany

Readings: Philippians 2:5-11; Romans 10:5-13

Reflection: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Greeting: For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Prayer: O Lord God, your chosen dwelling is the heart of the lowly. We give you thanks that you revealed yourself in the holy child Jesus, thereby sanctifying all childhood in him. Make us humble in faith and love, that we may know the joy of the gospel hidden from the wise and prudent and revealed unto babes. This we ask in the name of the One, who, wearing our mortal flesh, grew in wisdom and in favor with God and all people, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reflection: Psalm 147

*Praise the Lord! Because it is good to sing praise to our God! Because it is a pleasure to make beautiful praise! The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem, gathering up Israel’s exiles. God heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds. God counts the stars by number, giving each one a name. Our Lord is great and so strong! God’s knowledge can’t be grasped! The Lord helps the poor, but throws the wicked down on the dirt! Sing to the Lord with thanks; sing praises to our God with a lyre! God covers the skies with clouds; God makes rain for the earth; God makes the mountains sprout green grass. God gives food to the animals— even to the baby ravens when they cry out. God doesn’t prize the strength of a horse; God doesn’t treasure the legs of a runner. No. The Lord treasures the people who honor him, the people who wait for his faithful love. Praise the Lord!
(Psalm 147:1-11, 20c CEB+)*

We read the words of Psalm 147 and hear of God’s healing and strength. That God is there helping the poor. We see God in strength and wisdom helping the faithful. That nothing is too big for God to handle and that everything is known to God. How do we see God as our leader? How do we sing praises to him? How do we honor him? How do you see God as in control in your life? How can you help others to seek God in times of need? How can you sing praises to God daily in your life?

Prayer: Oh Lord, help us as we remember all that has been done for us. Let us recall all the ways that you help us and are there for us. Especially in this time, help us to recognize all the ways that your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, is in our lives. Help us to see all the ways that he is with us. Let us turn to him as Lord in our time of need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Now let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

Sermon:

Our scripture reading for today comes from the Common English Bible. Our first reading is from Philippians chapter 2, verses 5 through 11.

Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus: Though he was in the form of God, he did not consider being equal with God something to exploit. But he emptied himself by taking the form of a slave and by becoming like human beings. When he found himself in the form of a human, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God highly honored him and gave him a name above all names, so that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth might bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(Philippians 2:5-11 CEB+)

Our next reading is from Romans chapter 10, verses 5 through 13.

Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the Law: The person who does these things will live by them. But the righteousness that comes from faith talks like this: Don't say in your heart, "Who will go up into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will go down into the region below?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the message of faith that we preach). Because if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. The scripture says, All who have faith in him won't be put to shame. There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. All who call on the Lord's name will be saved.

(Romans 10:5-13 CEB+)

This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

As we continue in our Jesus Is series, we come to a message that can be rolled up into a lot of terms. But, for this week, I chose Jesus is Lord because of the fact that Lord is used quite often. I want to look at what that means for us. The readings I chose for today look at why we would call Jesus Lord, while also seeing what recognizing that does. I want to start with talking a little bit about what this expression really means. Saying that Jesus is Lord of all. There's a lot of different titles we could use, and different ones have different meanings. Even Christ as a title would fall somewhere in this. We think of Lord, master, king, ruler, all sort of synonymous. Messiah and Christ both have a meaning that translates somewhere between the

anointed and the chosen one. Kings are also anointed as are prophets and priests. And we can look at this idea of Jesus as Lord and almost say that Jesus his boss. Jesus is in charge. And the reason I waited until now to cover “Jesus is Lord” is because all the other titles that we talked about play into this one. And what I mean by that is that we look at a master, at a boss, at a king or ruler differently if we think about having a personal relationship with them. And we see this in the Old Testament a lot. When somebody has a close relationship with a king, they're treated differently, and they treat the king differently.

If we look at this, going back to our first message, and we look at this through the lens of Jesus as friend, it doesn't take away from his role as the leader, his role as the one in charge. But it means that our relationship is different. If you've ever worked for a friend, you would know that the environment is different than working for somebody that your only relationship to them is that power structure. But the power structure isn't our only relationship to Christ. When we look at the role of the Good Shepherd, that the Good Shepherd is a leader. The master of the flock. But we also know that it's a role of care and conviction, that the responsibility that comes with it helps to define the role. When we look at Christ as the beginning and the end and bring that into it, then it would mean that Christ always has been and always will be in charge. And it helps us to recognize that eternalness of his leadership.

One of the reasons I picked the readings for today is because of the way that Jesus is called Lord because of his actions, emptying himself, becoming fully human and fully divine. Taking that human form and dying for us. But we look at that as obedience to God's will. I think that if we look at that as Jesus doing what had to be done, that he's elevated because he humbled himself and because he took our place. Because he took upon himself our sins, that he suffered our death. And that he's exalted because of that. Our other reading talks about being saved by proclaiming Jesus as Lord. And it's interesting because it's not just a statement, that it's a two-part declaration. That it isn't just about saying the words. But that we have to both say the words and have faith in our hearts. That if we have faith but we're afraid to say it, it means that there's some sort of doubt there and an unwillingness to actually confess. If we say it without having the faith, then we're just speaking the words without truly understanding.

To me, when we call Jesus Lord, it means we are calling him the one that we will follow. The one who is exalted because he has shown what he's willing to do for us. That it is not a title just given out to say, “He's in charge, deal with it.” It's a title that shows our respect for what has been done for us that when we declare Jesus is Lord. We are declaring that we dedicate our lives to his cause. That we dedicate ourselves to serving his kingdom. That we give ourselves over for his purpose. Because we have seen that his purpose is good. That we understand his leadership. That we understand his teaching. And I don't think of it as just giving a title to have a title. As I said before, there's many ways that we could express it. And Lord has just become the norm, if you will. And it's mainly because it's not a title used anymore, for the most part, at least not in our everyday conversation. We aren't going to work for a lord in our daily jobs. We don't get up in the morning and get things ready for our master. When I think

about all of you, I can't think of any of you that are in a position where you would ever called anyone else Lord. And I think that's why it has taken on such a unique position as a title. Because when we talk about Christ as King, it is king of kings, the king of all, because we have to place him above any other King. If we were to say he was the boss, we have to say he is the boss of all bosses, to elevate him above all others. To say that no matter who the boss is, they still report the one at the top, who earned that place by showing the kind of love that has to be shown to be able to do God's will.

So, when we call Jesus Lord, that title conveys our respect, our love, and our devotion to this friend that decided that he would lay down his life for us. When we call Jesus Lord, we are saying that he is our protector, our guide, and our guardian as a good shepherd. When we call Jesus Lord of all, we are recognizing his role in all things from beginning to end. When we do that, it helps us to consolidate all of those things that we think about. And it doesn't mean that he's unapproachable. Often when we think about a king, we think about somebody that we'd have trouble coming to. But that's not Christ. He's someone that is there for us in all things. Because the leadership that Christ gives as our Lord and Savior is one of servant leadership. Not one who's demanding that everyone do everything for his glory, but one who serves the people for the glory of God. That all may feel welcome. That all may feel loved. That all may feel accepted. And it's that servant leadership that I think of the most I think about Jesus being Lord. That we think of him that way because he is the type of leadership that we need in all places in our lives. Someone in charge, who cares. And I'm reminded of the stories about the head of large companies that are still willing to do the lowliest job in the company to show that there is still no job beneath them, that are willing to talk to every customer and every employee in order to help. Because, as Christ demonstrated, his role as Lord isn't simply to command and to say go and do. We don't think of him as some general sitting back at headquarters, sitting around going, have this person do this and have this person do that. No, we see Christ as the one who is on the frontlines checking in on everyone from the first to the last, making sure that all are okay because all are in his care and all are deserving of his love. And that all of it glorifies God, that his actions glorify all creation. Because he is willing to serve in order to show how to lead. And that's the servant leadership that we are called to. Not that we may be part of the kingdom of God so that we may rule over others. But that we may be part of the kingdom of God, in order that we may serve in God's kingdom. That we may do God's will. That we may love others. That we may care for all creation.

So, to me, when I say Jesus is Lord it is because I see him as the example of who I want to be. One who leads by example. One who leads with compassion. One who walks in the truth. One who approaches mistakes with mercy. One who lifts others up so that all may be joined together. And in declaring that Christ is Lord, I declare that that is what I want my life to be like. That I see him, and I want to serve him by serving others. That I see him, and I want to serve him by loving others. I want to serve him because I know he would do everything to serve me, as lowly as I am. They say that it helps to have friends in high places. And I have to

say it's true. Because Jesus as our friend, our shepherd, as the beginning and end, as Lord, is someone who is always there for us, always willing to listen, always willing to help, in order to show us just how good life can be, and how good we can be when we follow that example. Amen.

Prayer of Confession and Pardon: Almighty and all-loving God, through your Son Jesus Christ you have reconciled the world to yourself. Help us now to be reconciled with one another, that again we might dwell in the warmth of your love. Inspire us with your Holy Spirit to put aside the cloak of pride and put on Christ, that we might forgive and be forgiven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering: If you are so moved to make an offering, you may send it to the church treasurer, or you may send it to the PO Box listed below. We are still the church, and the church still needs your support to keep doing all the important work that we do.

Lord's Prayer

Dismissal with Blessing: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer List

Rev Charliam Renner	Bishop Frank Beard	Our Conference	Our Healthcare Workers
Angie Veach	Diane Washburn	Eric Veach	Cathy Devall
Brock McMorris	Ed & Verna Titus	Hayden Kanizer	Henry Catey
Jake Kiser	Laura Eubank Allison	Cindy Cisney	Patti Corder & Crew
Nancy Hoke	Don Wells	Tricia Adkins	Ronnie & Elaine Carlen
Don Stewart	Anne Winkler Heinrichs		Michael & Makenzie Reynolds
Ronnie Winstead	John Millsap	Annie McMorris	Dwight Parsons
Trinity Powers	Richard Durham	Kathy Hanks	Nora Werner & Family
Wayne Carrell	Gary & Mary Winterrowd	Family of Lois Woolever	Mary White
Nick Nichols	Leo Smith	Bonnie Hite	Greg Williams
Eloise Buffenmeyer	Martha Roberts	Charlie & Charlotte Baxter	Paul Schulte
Kim Hennes	Residents of the Greenup Nursing Center		

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