

Dear Friends in Christ:

If I were going to be in this business for another ten or twenty years, I would make a big push to end the Season after Pentecost sometime in October and add the Season of the End Time for November. The texts that we are looking at for the coming Sundays certainly support that move.

All Saints' day reminds us of the church expectant which waits for the resurrection of the dead and the world to come. Before the age to come can come, the standard operating procedures of the old world—and many who inhabit it, must be brought to an end.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (11-12) has the 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins illustrating in story form the necessity to be alert, waiting and watching as the end of the old creation and the return of Christ draws near.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (11-19) will have to do double duty as Harvest and pre-Thanksgiving as well as the stewards of 10, 5, and 1 talent respectively and the lack of stewardship on the part of the final steward. Judgement is coming. Not all will be included in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Those who mistrust the Lord to the point of hedging against him do not put themselves in a very good position. The music will be decidedly Thanksgiving music.

Christ the King Sunday (11-26) is the final Sunday of the Church year. This year (year A) we have the text from Matthew 25 in which the King returns and the sheep and the goats are separated and judged:

<sup>34</sup> Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

<sup>35</sup> For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

<sup>36</sup> Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

This may not be the criteria for judgement that we expected, but then Jesus is not quite the King that the world expected or expects. If, as in the ministry of Jesus in Galilee, the central value of the Kingdom of God is compassion, it makes perfect sense. There is a great selection of hymns that celebrate the kingship of Jesus, and we aim to sing them.

The end of things will come. None of us knows when. Thanks to the texts in November, we have a little more preparation for that end. Wishing you a

Happy Season of the End time,

John Shepherd McKenzie