

Dear Friends in Christ:

November begins with All Saints' Sunday and ends with the First Sunday of Advent. In between we finish up the Season after Pentecost and celebrate Christ the King Sunday. Thanksgiving is thrown into the mix as well. The focus is all over the place. We could focus on the End Times theme in some of the readings, but they are not consistent. Our hymns will focus on the season of Harvest and Thanksgiving.

*The Gospel Text for All Saints' Sunday is Luke 6 with the beatitudes and woes.*

When the Kingdom of God comes, there will be a reversal of our well-established and long-cherished systems of injustice and oppression. Before the Cultural Marxists get too excited, no, they will not get to set the agenda and call the shots. God will set the agenda and call the shots.

*The Gospel Text for November 9 is a scholastic question regarding marriage.*

We could easily replace it with something more interesting, but it deals with the problem of power relationships and positions of privilege which passes away when God repossesses the earth.

*The Gospel Text for November 16 deals with the passing away nature of all that presently exists before the new can come.*

Jesus' disciples are very impressed with the great stones of which the temple is constructed. He tells them that not one will be left upon another. This actually gets borne out when the Romans destroy the temple in 70 AD and forcibly vacate the whole city in 135 AD.

*The Gospel Text for Christ the King puts the context of Jesus' Kingship in his conversation with the thief on the cross.*

Jesus rules over his people not by leveraging fear and violence but by leveraging compassion; suffering with them and for them; and loving them into a new personhood. "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

*The Gospel Text for the First Sunday in Advent deals with the unexpected coming of the End of things and the Reign of God.*

The piety of early Christians was all caught up with keeping awake and alert lest the end of all things come upon us while we are unprepared. This is the true nature of the season of Advent which is an anticipation of the return of Christ, the judgement, and the recapitulation of all things (Acts 3:21).

But what about Thanksgiving? Thanksgiving is a mostly secular Harvest festival. Christians ought to give thanks every day for every good gift and every perfect endowment (James). We can and ought to hijack the day of Thanksgiving from parades, gluttony, and football by insisting that the giving of thanks to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the prime order of business.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor John