



# CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY



23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

*In a World Tired of Leaders, Meet Christ the King*

This week, as I was scrolling through Facebook, a post popped up in my feed that really caught my attention. Someone had shared a call for people to comment on a vote of no confidence in the Albanese government. Apparently, there's even a petition — EN8108 — circulating and gathering support.

Now, I'm not raising this to make any political point. As you know, I usually avoid political debates entirely because they're so divisive, and because it's so easy for people to hear something you didn't mean. What struck me wasn't the politics — it was the tone. The level of frustration. The disappointment. The sense that people are feeling unheard, let down, or disillusioned by leadership. And what stood out even more was who *wasn't* commenting. People who might normally speak up with a different viewpoint were silent. It made me think: there's a heaviness in our community. People don't just disagree with leaders — many feel weary of them. There's a kind of fatigue, a longing for somebody trustworthy, somebody steady, somebody who genuinely listens.

But in the middle of all that heaviness, I had a very different experience just last week. In the process of promoting our Remembrance Day service, I contacted our local federal member, Dan Repacholi, to ask if he'd include our editorial in his community mail-out. I honestly wasn't expecting much. Those requests often disappear into the ether. But within *thirty minutes*, his chief of staff — Chad Griffith — emailed back with a warm, positive response. No fuss. No layers of bureaucracy. Just a simple, "Yes, we'd love to help," and then actually did.

Now, I don't publicly take sides, and I have no intention of trying to sway anyone politically. But it is striking when a leader makes time for ordinary people. When they listen. When they show humility. When serving the community actually seems to matter. There's something about that kind of leadership — humble, attentive, grounded — that feels rare. And when we experience it, even in small moments, we're drawn to it. And really, that longing — that ache for good leadership — is exactly what sits underneath our readings this morning.

**Point 1 | God's word through Jeremiah is both a critique of the corrupt leaders, and a promise of a true king to come.**

Jeremiah lived in a time when the nation's leaders were failing spectacularly. The shepherds of Israel — the kings, the priests, the officials — were scattering the flock. People felt unsafe, unheard, unprotected. A lot like many people feel today.

And into that moment God spoke through Jeremiah: *"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture."* (Jeremiah 23:1) It's a confronting line. God is naming the deep disappointment of the people. But then comes a promise — a promise God had been building toward for centuries: *"I will raise up for David a righteous Branch... and he shall reign as king and deal wisely."* (v5)

A leader who gathers instead of scatters. A shepherd who cares rather than exploits. A king who brings justice rather than corruption.

And his name will be: *"The Lord is our righteousness."* (v6) A king who makes things right. Jeremiah's prophecy is all about hope — not in the current system, not in political structures, but in God's promise to send a different kind of king.

## **Point 2 | Years later, in Zechariah's day, we see God's promise on the dawn of fulfilment: God's true king is about to come.**

And then we move to Zechariah — a man God kept silent for months, quite possibly to stop his doubtful words from undermining the extraordinary thing God was about to do... Suddenly experience the loosening of his tongue. And what he sings is a song of God remembering His promise. *"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them."* (Luke 1:68)

He celebrates a dawning light breaking into darkness: "The dawn from on high shall break upon us..." (v.76) Zechariah is saying: *"The promised King is finally coming. The sunrise is beginning."*

In a world where shadows feel long and hope can feel thin, God is sending a light that cannot be put out. This is the heart of Advent and Christmas — the promise that an eternal Light is coming into the world, and this Light is so powerful, darkness can never make it go out.

Not even when faith feels weak. Not even when leaders fail. Not even when darkness lingers.

God hasn't forgotten the world. God hasn't abandoned His people. The King — the Light of the world — is on the way. And all of this prepares us for God's majestic revelation of who this King actually is.

## **Point 3 | Paul's letter to the Colossians reveals God's majestic revelation: Jesus Christ is the cosmic king who holds all things together.**

When Paul writes to the Colossians, he doesn't just describe Jesus as the fulfiller of Jeremiah's promise — he describes Him as the Ultimate Cosmic King. The One who existed before all things. The One through whom all things were created. The One in whom all things hold together.

Let that sink in for a moment. Every molecule. Every heartbeat. Every sunrise. Every galaxy. Every moment of your life. All held together in Christ. Paul goes on to say: *"For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things."* (Colossians 1:19-20) Not just reconcile people spiritually — but reconcile *all things* — creation, relationships, systems, history. And how does He do this? Through the blood of His cross.

Which leads us to the most surprising moment in the readings today.

## **Point 4 | At the cross, the true nature of Christ's kingship was revealed.**

At the cross: We meet the king Jeremiah promised. We meet the king Zechariah sang about. We meet the king Paul describes as the image of the invisible God.

And what did we see, when He was hanging on a cross? Above his head is a sign — meant to mock Him — that reads: *"This is the King of the Jews."* (Luke 23:38) And yet, in the deepest sense, it is the truest sign ever written.

Because here — in weakness, in suffering, in vulnerability — the true nature of God's kingship is revealed. Jesus doesn't save Himself. He doesn't call down angels. He doesn't show force or dominance.

Instead He forgives. *"Father, forgive them..."* (Luke 23:34)

Instead He welcomes. *"Today you will be with me in paradise."* (Luke 23:43)

Instead He loves to the very end. This is the King we follow. Not a king who rules through intimidation. Not a king who makes grand promises but never listens. Not a king who lords power over others.

But a king who washes the feet of his friends. A king who serves the poor and the weak. A king who suffers for the sake of His people. A king whose triumph is His love.

### **Application | What does this mean for us today?**

Christ the King Sunday is not a celebration of power in the worldly sense. It's not about triumphalism or Christian dominance or winning some culture war. It's about remembering that at the centre of the universe sits a very different kind of King. A King who listens. A King who forgives. A King who gathers the scattered. A King who brings peace. A King who reconciles all things.

In a world weary of leadership; in a world where trust is thin; in a world where people long for honesty, humility, and integrity — Christ the King reminds us:

There is a King you can trust. There is a Shepherd who will not abandon you. There is a Lord who holds all things together. And we are invited — as His people — to reflect this kingship in our own lives. To be people who:

- listen well
- serve humbly
- forgive generously
- work for peace
- gather instead of scatter
- and bring hope where there is despair.

We follow a crucified King — which means our lives are shaped by His pattern of love. So today, Christ the King Sunday, as we look at the turbulence in our nation, the heaviness in our communities, and even our own questions and fears, we lift our eyes again to the One who reigns with mercy.

This is the King we follow. This is the kingdom we belong to. And this is the hope we carry into the world.

Let's pray,

May we walk in His light. May we trust in His reign. And may we live as citizens of His humble, reconciling, and eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

## *Reflection Questions*

- 1.** Where in my own life do I feel the same longing for trustworthy and humble leadership that we see in Jeremiah's time and in our world today?
- 2.** How have I experienced Christ as the kind of King who gathers, heals, listens, and brings peace — even in seasons of disappointment or disillusionment?
- 3.** When have I been drawn to someone because of their humble, attentive leadership — and how might that shape the way I follow Christ as my King?
- 4.** In what areas of my life am I invited to reflect Jesus' cruciform kingship — leadership expressed through service, forgiveness, or compassion?
- 5.** What "scattered places" in my heart, relationships, or community might Christ the King be calling me to bring under His reconciling love this week?