Sermon for November 22, 2026 – Christ the King

Daniel 7:9-10,13-14 EHV

Theme: **Yours is the Kingdom…**

1) Eternal LORD
2) Divine Son
3) Redeemed Christian

9 I continued to watch until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days was seated. His clothing was white as snow, and the hair on his head was like pure wool. His throne was flames of fire. Its wheels were blazing fire. 10 A river of fire flowed out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and books were opened.

13 I kept watching the night visions, and there, in the clouds of heaven, I saw one like a son of man coming. He came to the Ancient of Days, and he was brought before him. 14 To him was given dominion, honor, and a kingdom. All peoples, nations, and languages will worship him. His dominion is an eternal dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

There seems to be a lot of craziness in the world. Just as Jesus warned, the love of many is growing cold,[i] resulting in injustice, conflict, and war. Powerful people make sacrilegious claims against the LORD and persecute His people.

We worry for our children. We worry for ourselves. How will it all end?

The LORD answers that question for us in a vision He granted Daniel some 2500 years ago. Regardless of how much the world's powerful people boast, the LORD reigns in heaven – ready to judge the earth for the benefit of His people.

Let us consider these things under the theme: **Yours is the Kingdom…** 1) Eternal LORD, 2) Divine Son, and 3) Redeemed Christian.

Part One: Yours is the Kingdom, Eternal LORD.

Our sermon text is part of a terrifying vision that Daniel had in Babylon. He dreamed of four vicious beasts that came out of the churning sea. They were given the authority to kill, crush, eat, and rule. The last of the four beasts was especially terrifying; from among its ten horns arose one with human eyes that spoke boastfully. That horn made war against God's people and prevailed over them.[ii]

What Daniel saw was the rise and fall of political powers on Earth. While they all would bring misery to God's people, in the last days, a great power would arise that would make a special war against God's people. How? As the angel explained to Daniel, "*He will speak words against the*

Most High so that he will wear down the saints of the Most High. Moreover, he has plans to change times and the law."[iii]

Worldly powers certainly persecute God's people with the policies they enact. In some parts of the world, Christianity is illegal. In our part, society's shifting norms confuse people as to what God's truth is – what it means to love God and our neighbour. Yes, a blasphemous power is heard in the world – specifically targeting God's truth. Conforming to worldly philosophy, visible Christianity moves ever further away from Christ and increasingly into a "truth is whatever feels right to me" mentality.

Still worse, the sinful pride that moved the powerful horn to boast against God also lives in our fallen flesh. It speaks whenever we sinfully disagree with God's Word, or try to live as if a commandment doesn't apply to us.

Yes, not only is the world a mess, our sinful hearts are too. Who will save us from all the evil that surrounds us inside and out?

The LORD will, as Daniel describes in his vision of heaven,

[9]I continued to watch until thrones were set up, and the Ancient of Days was seated. His clothing was white as snow, and the hair on his head was like pure wool. His throne was flames of fire. Its wheels were blazing fire.

The LORD stands ready to judge the world. He is described as the "Ancient of Days." He is eternal, the One who existed before time began. His white clothes and hair are symbols of purity. There is no sin or evil in Him. His throne is fire – symbolizing His burning holiness that stands ready to consume the wicked in judgment. The "wheels" on His throne reveal His ability to rule everywhere. Like a warrior King on a chariot, He is ready to attack His enemies and rescue His people.

Yes, the LORD is sitting on His throne ready to judge – having other thrones set up around Him, indicating that others will join Him in judgment. Who are these others? We will get to them later.

Daniel continues:

[10]A river of fire flowed out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and books were opened.

Millions of angels attend God, ready to do His bidding. The court is ready not only to pronounce judgment over the earth, but to enact it swiftly. Holy zeal flows from Him like a fast-flowing flood of fire.

All that is left is to open the books.[iv] What are they? One records the deeds of every person on this earth – every action, word, or thought. God knows them all, and He will judge!

What a terrifying thought! God knows all your sins – even the ones you try to keep hidden from yourself. The whole world will be judged according to His Word – the Word people reject.[v] The Word you and I often neglect. The river of God's holy wrath is filling a great lake, in which the devil and all his angels will be cast.[vi] Everyone who follows them will face that judgment too.

But what will keep us from being swept away with them? None of us are righteous. None of us are sinless. How can we be saved?

We are saved by God's grace, as the apostle Paul explains: *God erased the record of our debt brought against us by his legal demands. This record stood against us, but he took it away by nailing it to the cross.*[vii]

Yes, when Jesus died on the cross, our records of sins died with Him. It is finished. Because of Jesus, our names are written in His other book: the Book of Life. God wrote your name there before He made the world, choosing you in His Son.[viii] Then, in time, He carried out that choice: He adopted you through Baptism and keeps you through His Word.

Because of the Spirit's work, you cling to Christ, even as the spiritual beasts rage against you. And if God ever calls you to suffer or die for Christ's sake, the Holy Spirit will strengthen you for your witness.

Are you perfect? No. But you are forgiven. Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow[ix] because Jesus lived, died, and rose again for your salvation. In your Baptism, He washed your robe in the blood of the Lamb,[x] and each time He absolves you, His blood cleanses you from all sin.[xi] Daily repentance returns you to that washing. Because of Jesus' work, you don't have to fear God's wrath but can rejoice in His salvation. He reigns with the Father on your behalf, as our text indicates:

Part Two: Yours is the Kingdom, Divine Son.

[13]I kept watching the night visions, and there, in the clouds of heaven, I saw one like a son of man coming. He came to the Ancient of Days, and he was brought before him.

Look at how Jesus is described here: *like a son of man* - truly human. But see how He comes: *in the clouds of heaven.*[xii] No mere human can do that, but He can. Why? Because He is also God: the next verse says all peoples will worship Him.[xiii] Moreover, He is able to stand before God and live. No sinful human could ever do that before,[xiv] so how is it possible now? It is because, even though Jesus *has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet* [He] *was without sin.*[xv] And because Jesus, the perfect man, suffered and died for all our sins, we too can stand before God, as the author of Hebrews states*:*

> *Therefore, since we have a great high priest, who has gone through the heavens, namely, Jesus the Son of God… let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* [xvi]

This is why we rejoice to see Jesus, our human brother, before the throne of God. Because He is there, we can be there. Through Him, we have access to God the Father.[xvii] Not only that, but He stands as our Judge because the Father *has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.*[xviii] Just think: the One who will open the books on the Last Day is your brother who bore your sins in His body on the cross!

[14]To him was given dominion, honor, and a kingdom. All peoples, nations, and languages will worship him.

Yes, the Father gave all authority to His Son – not because the Son ever lacked it as God, but because He received it as the Son of Man, according to His human nature.[xix] Ever since His ascension, Jesus, our human brother, has been sitting on God's throne – ruling over all things for the benefit of His Church.[xx] He knows about the evil we experience in this world, and yet He is working in all of it for our everlasting good.[xxi] He is working in and through us, for we are His body and He is our Head. Through our witness of the Gospel, He is bringing His salvation to every corner of the globe – forgiving sin and rescuing His chosen people from the powers that threaten them.

His dominion is an eternal dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.

Unlike all earthly and evil powers that will be destroyed in the judgment, Jesus' kingdom will last forever, as He reigns with the Father and the Spirit, one God for all eternity. And because Jesus has graciously saved us to be a part of His Kingdom, we have hope. Despite all the evil we experience on this earth for Christ's sake, and the turmoil we feel as the world and our own sinful flesh try to tear us away from Christ – none of it can separate us from the love God has for us in Christ.[xxii]

Yes, our Lord Jesus reigns. And because He reigns, so will you.

Part Three: Yours is the Kingdom, Redeemed Christian.

Remember the thrones set up at the beginning of our text? Daniel doesn't say who sits on them, but the angel tells him this:

> *The saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom, and they will possess the kingdom forever.*[xxiii]

Similarly, Jesus told the apostle John in Revelation, "*To the one who is victorious I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne."*[xxiv]

Yes, Jesus' Kingdom is an everlasting reign, one that He graciously shares with His redeemed people, as Jesus once told His disciples, "*I am going to grant a kingdom to you, just as my Father*

granted to me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. And you will sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."[xxv]

This promise is not just for the disciples, as the apostle Paul indicates: *Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?… Do you not know that we will judge angels?* [xxvi]

Yes, the world that condemned believers to death for their faith in Christ will see those same believers seated with Christ when He judges it. Even now, they live and reign with Christ, as the apostle John writes: *4Then I saw thrones, and those who were sitting on them were given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God… They lived and reigned with Christ.*[xxvii]

This honour is yours – not because you have earned or deserved it. None of us could! No, it is yours because our gracious God reigns. His Son saved us so that we can live with Him in heaven – not merely as slaves or servants of God, but as His friends[xxviii] and family[xxix] - coheirs with Christ! [xxx]

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters in Christ – do not fear the evil of this earth. When tempted to give up or give in to the threats and allurements of the world, go to God's Word and Sacraments where He gives you what He has promised in Christ: forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Your eternal LORD reigns – all holy, just, and powerful. He will judge the world through Jesus, His Son, who redeemed you for Himself, so that you can reign with Him in heaven.

Yes, dear Christian, because of God's grace, yours is the kingdom with Christ, now by faith and forever in heaven. For His is the power and the glory forever. Amen.

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[i] Cf. Matthew 24:12
[ii] Cf. Daniel 7:20-21
[iii] Daniel 7:25 EHV
[iv] Cf. Revelation 20:12
[v] Cf. John 12:48
[vi] Cf. Revelation 20:10,14-15
[vii] Colossians 2:14 EHV
[viii] Cf. Luke 10:20, Ephesians 1:4
[ix] Cf. Isaiah 1:18
[x] Cf. Revelation 7:14; Acts 22:16
[xi] Cf. 1 John 1:7
[xii] Cf. Psalm 104:3
[xiii] Cf. Philippians 2:6-11
[xiv] Cf. Exodus 33:20
[xv] Hebrews 4:15 EHV
[xvi] Hebrews 4:14,16 EHV
[xvii] Cf. Ephesians 2:18
[xviii] John 5:27 EHV
[xix] Cf. Matthew 28:18
[xx] Cf. Ephesians 1:20-23

[xxi] Cf. Romans 8:28
[xxii] Cf. Romans 8:35-39
[xxiii] Daniel 7:18 EHV
[xxiv] Revelation 3:21 EHV
[xxv] Luke 22:29-30 EHV
[xxvi] 1 Corinthians 6:2a,3a EHV
[xxvii] Revelation 20:4 EHV
[xxviii] Cf. John 15:13-15
[xxix] Cf. Mark 3:33-35, Hebrews 2:10ff
[xxx] Cf. Romans 8:17, Galatians 4:7