

“Jesus, the Christ, the Anointed Lord”

St. Luke 1.31-33

Advent Midweek 2, 2005

The Word of God for our sermon meditation this evening was recorded in the Gospel of St. Luke, the 1st chapter, beginning with this 31st verse [Gabriel said] "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

In Old Testament times those who had special tasks to perform were set apart by an anointing. Typically in the Old Testament priests, kings, and prophets were anointed with oil to identify them as God's anointed, His chosen servant for the office to which they were called and invested. This anointing also conferred to the individual the abilities and skills they would need to satisfy the duties of their office. Many times the Scriptures described this saying "the Holy Spirit came upon him." No one could take an office to themselves. They had to be chosen, anointed otherwise they were an imposter.

Our three Scripture readings for tonight tell us of a king who is specially chosen and set apart by God to sit on the throne of David forever. This is an amazing prophecy should we pause to contemplate it. No king has ever been able to sit on his throne and reign forever. Kingdoms rise and fall as we know. But God declares that there will be a king who will have an everlasting kingdom, who will sit on the throne of David being his rightful heir.

There is only one such king we learn and it is not David and it is not Solomon, David's son. No, from the Spirit of God tonight who speaks through the angel Gabriel, we learn that this descendant, this seed of David is none other than the Babe of Mary, Jesus, the Christ, the Anointed Lord.

Not only is Jesus the only heir of David who will reign forever and ever in His kingdom, the Kingdom of God, the Christian Church, we also learn that He is the only one who can grant entrance and citizenship in this kingdom. Since Jesus is the Christ, which means, the Anointed, since He is the only Messiah of the Father, there then is no one else in all of the creation who can give

entrance unto eternal life, no way else into His kingdom. One might say that it is Jesus or bust!

This, in part, is what is meant when we say Jesus is the Christ. We are accustomed to just saying Jesus Christ but the title Christ is just that, a title. It reveals to us that God from eternity set apart His Son to perform a special task that no one else could perform. In performing this work Jesus would fill all three of the Old Testament offices of prophet, priest and king. No one else had ever done this and no one else ever will. The Father on high reveals that it is Jesus and Jesus alone whom He has appointed, whom He has anointed as the Savior of the world.

We need to be reminded of this blessed truth of our salvation from time to time in our lives. Since we are so inundated with so many false teachings that tell us of many ways to God, many truths that lead to heaven, many lifestyles that give us entrance to life without end, that there are many doors that open to eternal glory, we must remind ourselves that there is, in truth, only one true King, one true Kingdom of God, One true Door unto that kingdom. There is only one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. There is only One anointed by the Father who gives true salvation to the children of men.

Our Lord Jesus testified of this when He said "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." Again we hear "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" The Apostles also taught the same as we hear "But Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'" Again the Apostles of our Lord Jesus proclaim, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

St. Paul Himself announced the same truth when he wrote, "For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all. The holy writer to the Hebrews makes the point that only Jesus has paid for the sins of all when he writes, "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For

by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

These passages, along with the title "the Christ", teach us that there is only one Name, one Mediator, one Ransom for all and He is Jesus, the Son of David, the Son of Mary, the Son of God. He is the only One anointed by God on high to be the Savior of the world. He is the only One anointed by the Father and sent to reconcile the world to Him. He is the only One by whom one can enter eternal life and glory without end.

It is tough, however, to stand on this exclusive claim of Christianity. It seems so unloving, so uncaring, so "Scroogey" to insist, especially at this time of the year, that only Jesus is the Christ of God, His Anointed. It is tough because our sinful self wants us to water down and soften this claim of God. It is tough since we don't want to rock the boat, appear to be "Grinchy" and the like, especially when family relations are already filled with tension.

However, we do not have a choice if we are to be faithful servants to God as was Mary. As God's people we have been set apart through faith to bear the new of our King to all the world. As members of His Kingdom we do not have the right to withhold our allegiance and loyalty to the Son of David, the Lord's Anointed. We cannot be members of His Kingdom who know He is the only Savior of mankind and change or alter the message.

But we do this anyway, not just in word but also in action. We talk and behave as though there are multiple entrances to heaven when we do not proclaim Jesus as the Door into the Father's house. We speak and live as though there are many ways to God, all equally acceptable, when we do not announce that Jesus, as the Lord's Anointed, is the only way unto the Father. We by voice and by silence send the message that there is not just one Christ, one Anointed of God, called Jesus in whose name alone we are saved when we do not share Him as our Redeemer and the Redeemer of all.

Those who think and believe that there are many ways to heaven, many avenues to eternal glory, many beliefs that lead to everlasting bliss are one the wide path to destruction. Whoever

does not believe and worship Jesus as the Christ, the Anointed of God, who sits on the throne forever will be crushed on the Day of the Lord and will not enter into His Kingdom but rather into the realms of death and darkness forever.

+Soli Deo Gloria+

But you are not these who are going to death for by faith in Jesus the Christ, you and I who believe have been given entrance unto Heaven in His name. Through faith in Jesus, God's anointed Son and Savior, we have been given forgiveness, even for our less than faithful stand on Him as the world's only salvation. Through faith in the Son of the Highest we have been raised up from the depths and depravity of our sin and given life on high. Through faith in the Son of David, the King of creation, we have been made members of His Kingdom, the Kingdom that has no end.

We, by virtue of our baptisms into the faith, have been set apart by God, anointed by Him in Christ to be His special people, to proclaim the glories and praises of God who has made us citizens in His Kingdom. For we have been saved by the blood of our King, who bore our iniquities, who endured the rod of men and the blows of the sons of men. We have been raised to life, a new life through faith in Jesus, the only One ever raised from the dead as the First-Fruits of the resurrection.

We too have had the Spirit poured out on us at our baptisms setting us aside to be His holy people of faith. We have been brought to the Father, come to Him by faith in He who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. We have been saved through faith in He whose name is salvation, the only name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. We have had opened to us the gates of Heaven by He who is the Door of the sheep. We are members, citizens of the eternal kingdom through faith in He who is David's Son according to the flesh, the Anointed of God from eternity, the Christ of God, Jesus.

Therefore, let us who are His subjects, as those whom He has made to be salt and light in this world, announce Him as the Christ, the King of kings and the Lord of lords for the salvation of the world. For, if we do not – then who will? For we know that Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed Lord sent into the world for the salvation of all. Let us who are His now and forever proclaim this to the glory of His saving name! Amen.