

St Martins C3 – April 5, 2026
***The Day Christ Became King – The Power of the
Cross***

Sermon Notes:

We are exploring an idea which is represented in the two Latin words: “Christus Victor”. It is the image that through the cross Jesus was victorious over all things and became in that moment, the King of the Universe.

1 – Easter was a Completion

When we tell the story of Jesus it is easy for us to focus solely on Christmas and Easter. The story of Jesus is so much bigger than that. It is a completion of all that happened in the fall, Israel, and Jesus’ ministry.

It began with the rebellion of humanity and the marring of God’s good creation. Abraham’s family was called to push back the darkness, repair the broken image of God, and restore creation to Him. They were unable to do it, so Jesus came and was able to bring all things to completion.

Read John 10:10; Luke 7:11-16

2 – Easter was a Coronation

Read Matthew 28:18

Jesus has been given all authority in Heaven and Earth and that means He is the King. Not when He returns, but from the moment he sacrificed Himself on the cross.

There is Kingly language all through what Jesus did on the cross, but it has a different flavour. Instead of it being a moment of strength and power, it is humiliation and destruction. At the very moment the forces of evil tried to stop His kingship, they were actually crowning Him.

3 – Easter was a Conquering

Read John 12:31-33; Colossians 2:14-15

The cross is the full victory over the forces of evil. Jesus knew he was going to die. But He knew that in dying He was going to conquer the forces of evil. This might seem bizarre to us. How can you conquer through suffering? Yet, Jesus was bringing the new way of God to the world. Not conquering by force, but through the Kingdom way of sacrifice.

Christ is Our King

Christ is King of the world. He is in charge. Now, we need to live like it. That looks like:

- Perseverance in hard times. 2 Corinthians 4:8-10
- Character change. Romans 12:1-2
- Bring goodness to others. Isaiah 52:7
- Praising the name of Jesus. Philippians 2:5-11

Christianity is not just interested in what happens after we die (though that is all true), it is interested in the coming of the Kingdom of God. This was expressed in the life of Jesus and then inaugurated at the cross and the resurrection. A new King has won the day. The powers that have been defeated, we need to embrace the new reality.

Questions for Connect Groups:

Key Point

The cross is the day Jesus becomes King, but didn't become King by fighting people—He became King by defeating everything that hurts people.

Questions

What stood out to you from this week's message?

What does this message tell you about God and humans?

How is what Jesus was doing on the cross bigger than making a way for us to go to Heaven after we die?

Can you tell the whole story of the Bible, that was completed at the cross?

What do we miss out on if we only talk about Jesus' birth, death and resurrection?

In what ways, was Jesus' death a coronation? What is the significance of the cross being His Kingly moment?

In what ways do you see Jesus as the King of the world?

If Jesus is King of the world, why do we still suffer the effects of the curse?

What are some ways that you can live as though Jesus is your King this week?

Monday Devotion

The Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Satan. This leads to one of Jesus' strongest statements about how His Kingdom has come to oppose the works of the enemy. Think about what it is to be with Jesus in His mission today.

Scripture: Matthew 12:22-32

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Tuesday Devotion

Jesus sent out his disciples to minister, and they come back amazed that they cast out demons. When Jesus' followers are standing in his authority, they see Satan fall from his place of authority. That is what He is working towards. The kingdom of darkness thrown down and His Kingdom reigning

Scripture

Luke 10:27

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Wednesday Devotion

This is a remarkable moment in the crucifixion story. Pilate talks with Jesus about who He is and why people want Him killed. Jesus proclaims that His kingdom is not of this world. What does it look like to align with truth today?

Scripture

John 18:28-40

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Thursday Devotion

Jesus is the victor over all forces, including sin and death. One day, death will be defeated for good and we will live in new bodies that will never die. Until that time we can celebrate and consider what it means to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

Scripture

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)

Friday Devotion

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” The result is seen in lives that choose not to continue in sin. They are children of God and they love others well. Live as a child of God today.

Scripture

1 John 3:7-10

Observation (What stands out to you?)

Application (What will you do?)

Prayer (What do you want to say to God?)
