

Feast of Christ the King (C )  
St. Athanasius Parish  
November 19, 20, 2016

(also Anointing of the Sick, St. A)

No one of us likes being identified or described with one word, or even a single sentence. We probably all think, and rightly so, that there is more to us than a single word or sentence can express. So certainly we can't expect to describe or express the person of Jesus with one simple phrase or just a few words. Of all the persons who have lived on this earth, Jesus is hard to describe with any words, no matter how many. Yet that is really all that we have: we just have words.

Today's three Scriptures give us some of the more important phrases used to describe Jesus and his purpose and role in our lives. The ones we heard are:

1. Shepherd and Commander

- care and protection, tenderness not the exercise of power,
- we dare to recognize his voice and follow wherever he goes

2. King of Israel

- universal rule, extending far beyond just those of one's origin and kind

3. Image of the invisible God

- Christ is from God, and Christ reigns over everything that IS OF and BELONGS TO God. If we are to know God and see God, we must do it through Jesus.

4. Firstborn of all creation

- Jesus has primacy of power. Christ attentively oversees and cares for the garden of the world over which He rules

5. Source of all created things

- Christ is the model after which all things are fashioned.

6. Head of the body, the Church

- Jesus is not distant or disinterested in us. Just as a body needs a head, and a head needs a body, Jesus needs us and we need Him.

7. Firstborn of the dead

- Jesus our shepherd and leader, has gone ahead in His resurrection. He has paved the way, and we will follow. The path is clear; we will be raised through and with and in Him.

## 8. Crucified King

-all of the primacy and power of Jesus is placed into the mix of our own humanity. His willingness to suffer and die for us is such a strong image of his wanting to be for us. One only gives one's life for someone we love.

Because of who Jesus is, as He is described in these many titles, Jesus could rightfully say to the repentant criminal next to him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise." Obviously, you and I do not have the authority to make that same promise. When we connect to Jesus this promise is ours as well.

Today's Anointing of the Sick is one of the 7 Sacramental ways that we connect with Jesus. Many stories in the Scriptures tell of Jesus healing the infirm. Jesus continues to heal today. Jesus is the healer.

As Shepherd and Commander, Jesus protects and cares for us with tenderness.

As Head of His Body, the Church, Jesus is near to us, and heals us as part of his own body.

As First Born of the Dead, Jesus points us in the direction of eternal life as He ` heals us and shares with us his own resurrected life.

As our sisters and brothers are healed with the Anointing of the Sick, we join Jesus in praying for and caring for those among us who carry illness of the body or carry within them any distress of the heart.

Will those who choose to be anointed please stand (if you are able), or in some way identify yourself.

(following Anointing the blessing of Prayer Shawls and Nancy Weber's talk)