

anointed by John. What a wonderful invitation; to bow down and worship Jesus our king, as we seek to live following him, as we seek to live trusting him enough to do what he say. Trusting him because we know our king loves us more than his own life.

We can trust our king because his goal isn't to be re-elected, or to amass great wealth for himself. Our King is secure in his Father's love, so secure he gives himself away that we

might join him living together in Father's loving embrace, in Father's heart.

Today I invite you to repent of any rebellious thoughts, attitudes, desires that the Spirit reveals to you, and joyfully invite Jesus to rule in your lives because you trust him as the one Father has chosen. Today I invite you to declare your allegiance to Jesus as King, because you trust Father with the life he has blessed you with.

Let us pray.
Jesus come and daily rule in my life, rule in my heart, rule in my head. I want to follow you daily. I want to be loyal and faithful to you as king. Forgive and heal my rebellion, replacing it with the Spirit; so that I live trusting you, even when the society around me tells me I'm wrong, I'm stupid, I'm out of touch. Jesus, you are my king, thank you for bring me into the Promised Land of Father's loving heart. Amen.

10 December 2017

MISSION—JESUS OUR KING

Mark 1:1-8



In today's Gospel reading we see Jesus being anointed as king. Saul was anointed with oil by Samuel and so was David. A sign that this person was the one God had chosen to be king of his people. Today the prophet John anoints Jesus with water indicating that he is the one God has chosen to be king. The long expected king, the descended of David.

The word Messiah means the anointed one, the one chosen by God. He's the one you can trust; because he's been chosen and appointed by God. Jesus doesn't appoint himself as king, but it is his Father who has John anoint Jesus, so that we might know that he is the chosen one.

Have you ever noticed that in life there are many self-appointed saviours? People who

seek to rule in their own right and by their own ability; they are self-made. That's not Jesus. Jesus waits, waits thirty years.

Jesus was born to save the world, so from a human perspective you might think he could have got impatient. Why not when he's in his physical prime? Why not then be declared king, why wait till he's thirty.

I'm sure in Jesus time the life expectancy isn't what it is today. Thirty, why wait till physically his best is past him, living in obscurity. But Jesus waits. Jesus trusts his Father's timing. Jesus waits for Father to send John as the prophet who would announce to the world that Jesus is God's Messiah.

So that means Jesus operates with his

Father's power and authority. He hasn't simply gone of doing his own thing, the best he knows how. Jesus walks in his Father's power and authority, doing what his Father has planned, seeking to do the best his Father knows how.

Jesus is no a rebel; someone doing their own thing, according to their own logic and desires. Jesus is no rebel.

Rebel is one of the images of sin that we have in the bible. Do you notice that Barabbas was a rebel; he led a rebellion against the Roman Government. Barabbas was a self-appointed messiah. We are also told that Barabbas was a murderer; he'd killed to achieve his goals, to establish what he thought was right.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

Barabbas had killed to establish his kingdom.

That gets me reflecting on when I've acted like a self-appointed saviour. When I've believed that I was right and just bulldozed over other people to achieve what I thought was the right thing. Even when it's as simple as me throwing my weight around so that I can watch what I wanted on TV; 'After all I paid for it'!

Jesus is no self-appointed saviour. Jesus doesn't throw his weight around to get what he wants. Barabbas is replaced by Jesus. Jesus the one appointed by Father to be king. So Jesus crucifixion turns into his coronation; which echoes what his rule will be like, what his kingdom will be like, for his kingdom will be a living reflection of Jesus.

Jesus doesn't simply try and get what he wants. Jesus listens to his Father, and follows his

lead. Jesus is so secure in this relationship he has with his Father that he willingly seeks to do what is best for us according to our needs and he pays the bill. He pays with his life.

Today we are reminded that Jesus was born to be king. John, led by the Spirit anoints Jesus as the new king. The

Jesus is chosen by God to be King.

one God has chosen to lead his people. The one God has chosen to set his people free from slavery that they might live in the Promised Land.

There is so much imagery contained in where John is baptising. He was in the wilderness. Where did the Children of Israel go when they left Egypt? The wilderness. They wandered around for 40yrs, when it was only to be two years; but they rebelled.

They arrived at the Promised Land and sent in twelve spies; and ten of the spies said it was impossible. The land was full of giants, and then they did what they always seemed to do when the going got tough; they thought about going back to Egypt. They wanted to go back to what they knew; that's where they

felt safe. Even though it was slavery, it was horrid.

When the future looks uncertain or just downright scary, is anyone tempted to think of the good old days?

The wilderness is also an image of sin; wandering in this dangerous place which robs you of life.

So John is in the wilderness and he is baptising in the Jordan River. The very river the Children of Israel miraculously cross because God stopped the river and gave them dry land to walk on.

The second time he'd parted what seemed to be an impassable barrier represented by water. The first was the Red Sea; they thought Pharaoh had then cornered and they were in for it. But God lead then through the sea on dry ground and swept away the Egyptian army. They were free.

So John is here at the Jordan, the very location reminding the people of their God and the history they shared.

The imagery of the Jordan is also that of going from the wilderness into the Promised Land. Jesus is baptised in the Jordan and as he comes out of the water we see the Promised Land.

As Jesus comes out of the water the heavens are torn open, the Spirit descends in the form of a dove and Father says; 'This is my son, whom I live, with him I am well pleased.' The Promised Land is Father's heart. The way is open to live in

Father's heart. What security. What love. What acceptance, worth, purpose.

Jesus doesn't try and bash down the doors of heaven telling God what he has to do, how he has to do it and when he better get it done by. Actually I'm tempted daily to pray that way!

John anoints Jesus as King—the Messiah.

So John tells those who have come out to be baptised that he's not the main event, his job is to point out to them the one who will bring in the new kingdom, the new king in David's line, the long expected Messiah.

And John points to the difference; he baptises with water for repentance, but the one coming after him will take you in to live with God. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit; God's very

presence with you. This is the Promised Land.

So today I'm reminded that Jesus is the king our heavenly Father appointed to rule over his kingdom. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to be with us, so that now we begin living with God, that now we get a taste of living in the Promised Land. Living

as Father's loved children in whom he delights; that's the Promised Land, that's Jesus kingdom.

So today I'm invited by Jesus to repent of playing king, of the times I've thought I knew better and wanted to do things my way. Our King invites us to repent and to trust him, because we know him personally. Our King, Jesus, invites us when uncertain of the future, when we're just plain scared, not to look back but to look to him, and follow his lead.

Today Jesus invites you to live with him as your king; the one our heavenly Father