

Jesus Ruler of All

Hebrew 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Today is world Communion Sunday. World Communion Sunday reminds us that Protestant churches, regardless of denomination in the world, are brothers and sisters in Christ. We profess that we are one body of Christ through the sacrament of communion celebrated in rich diversity, while affirming that “there is one body and one spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all.”

Through World Communion Sunday, we, all Christians in the world, confess in common faith that “the Lord Jesus is the Christ, our Savior.”

Once, Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And Jesus asked them in reply, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” What image do you have when you profess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior?

Some people like to remember Jesus as a little baby in a manger and get all sentimental about Him. Some people like to remember Jesus on the cross, but He is not the one on the cross! He is not even in the grave. He is risen and He is glorious and powerful and mighty and seated on God’s right hand! This is Jesus as He is now – King of Kings and Lord of lords!

Last Sunday, I introduced C.S. Lewis, who wrote about the difference between the maker of something and the deliverer of a baby. There is a deep gap between the two—making and begetting. To beget is to become the father of, to create is to make. The maker and the being made are not homogeneous. And the difference is this.

When you beget, you beget something of the same kind as yourself. A man begets human babies, a beaver begets little beavers and a bird begets eggs which turn into little birds. But when you make, you make something of a different kind from yourself. A bird makes a nest, a beaver builds a dam, a man makes a wireless set. But, the deliverer and the baby are homogeneous. There is no gap in relationship and dialogue between them. God and the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord, are same in power and authority.

The other portrait of Jesus painted in the Gospel is Jesus as Son of Man, and also Son of God. As the Son of God, Jesus was sent to be born like us, as the Son of Man through his earthly mother, the Virgin Mary. He has been mistreated by the people as being lower than angels because “He is Son of Man and also Son of God.” This statement of Jesus is the most complicated and hard to understand to the people.

I heard about this episode from my friend. He was a group leader of a Bible study group. This was an unusual Bible study group in Korea, whose members consisted of an unlikely gathering of singers, movie stars, and comedians who were popular on Korean Television. While this bible study group was meeting at the home of one of the members, the leader asked the members about their professions of faith about Jesus. In response, one of the members raised a question about Jesus: "How could a virgin, Mary, bear a baby Jesus?"

The topic was hotly debated among the members. Then one of the group members, a former comedian named Bong Suh Koo said, "Wait a minute! We don't have to debate this issue so hotly among ourselves! The one person who cared about this issue the most has already resolved the issue as a non-issue—Joseph, the husband of Mary! Joseph was the one person who most cared about this issue about Mary, and he believed that her son was conceived by the Holy Spirit. If that was good enough for Joseph, it is good enough for us!"

The scripture reading this morning, from Hebrews chapter two, introduces the Son of God who will come to rule the world. Because He suffered and died, many people treated Him as if He was lower than the angels. But, because of his suffering and dying, he was honored and glorified as the ruler of all. God lifted Him up to be the ruler of all.

Let's recall the image of our Lord Jesus that Isaiah pictured: "For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and our Prince of Peace! He was born to rule. Not only was He born to rule, He earned the right to rule by His sacrifice – His death, burial, and resurrection.

Isaiah showed us the Lord, the Ruler of all. To be the ruler of all the ruler has to have all power and authority. His authority is over everything and everyone in the entire universe!

Theological speaking, theologians describe the story this way: Once, Adam had the authority to rule the world. This authority given by God, Adam lost. This authority was then taken by the devil when Adam ate of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. And, at last, Jesus took this authority back from the devil and gave it back to all those who love Him and serve Him.

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. And then, Jesus sent these twelve out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go, rather, to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, and drive out demons."

David Letterman, the CBS talk-show host, confessed and admitted publicly that he has had a sexual relationship with a female staff member on his show, and that someone tried to extort money from him. He has been threatened by a man to either pay \$2 million, or risk the relationship being made public. Letterman was threatened by this man because of his own weakness. Likewise, because of our weaknesses, we are threatened by evil and do not exercise the authority to rule the world which was recovered by the Lord.

Jesus' authority is different from that of a worldly king. Everybody fears standing in front of worldly authority. But, the Bible says, "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear those who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

The ruler of all, our Lord Jesus, has authority that worldly kings have not. He has healing authority. (Matthew 9:5-8) He has the authority to cleanse sin. (Matthew 9:3). He has authority to cast out devil spirits. (Matthew 8:28-32) He has authority to calm down the winds and the storms. (Matthew 8:23-27) He manifested His authority to raise the dead and conquered His own death by resurrection from death.

We profess our Lord Jesus by the Affirmation of the Disciples, "He shall come to judge the quick and the dead." The King of the kings, our Lord, is the ruler of the eternal kingdom, coming after the resurrection.

One of Sadducees, who were a group of Jews who believed that there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and asked a question. "Teacher, Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and have children for him." Now, there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. The same thing happened to the second and third, right on down to the seven. Finally, the woman died. Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?"

Jesus replied, "At the resurrection people neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven."

We have known and experienced that there are three dimensions in physics and life. The first dimension in physics is the line, and in life, a linear life. We walk along the line of the road. That is the first dimension. Secondly, we till the land and sow seeds on the land. To have land is to measure property by squares. We can refer to this land as the second dimension. Lastly, we build a house. To build a house, we set poles, build walls; we set windows, cover a roof, and make space to live. We call this space to live the third dimension.

To live longer (linear life) and to have possession (life by squares) is not the whole story of a real life, lived in the house of Truth. The Apostle Paul explained the time

of resurrection and life akin to a third dimension. "If the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we will have another building, an eternal house from God, not built by human hands. And when the people die, their naked body will become clothed, a transformed body, from mortal to eternal for the dwelling in heaven." (2 Corinthians 5:1-5)

In physics, the universe can be explained by "Time and Space." Time is divided by past, present, and future. Between the times, past, present and future, we cannot travel back and forth. We feel sad when we grow old and cannot go back to the past. We wish to know how the future will be, but we can't cross over the future right now either. We have to wait and meet the future when it comes.

But, in eternity there is no gap between past, present, and future. Who knows, we might travel to the future and past back and forth in eternity! If we can say time is the first dimension, and space, the second dimension, then eternity is the third dimension. In eternity, we might be able to go back and forth and up and down in time.

Hebrews chapter two encourages us that we have the great salvation. This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders, and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Job is the Bible's most thorough wrestling with the problem of God and human suffering. The problem of human suffering, as portrayed in Job, remains one of the most significant challenges to all theistic religions and philosophies. As David Hume, the Enlightenment Scottish philosopher put it, "If God is good, God cannot be omnipotent. If God is omnipotent, God cannot be good."

We don't know why and where suffering comes from for the righteous person. There is mystery and hidden truth that the righteous person suffers. Here is good news that because Jesus himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrew 2:18)

The ruler of all is neither the devil, nor the angel, but the Lord Jesus. He is the everlasting King and we are His people. May the eternal faith, hope, and love from the grace of the eternal King be with you who are experiencing suffering in this world.