



DAILY FAITH PRACTICES

Christ the King Sunday (B) – Revelation 1:4b-8

Focus: *The One Who Is, Was, and Is To Come*

word of life

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Revelation 1:8 (NRSV)

Read Revelation 1:4b-8

The last book of the Bible is titled *The Revelation to John* and is the longest letter in the New Testament. The revelation (or apocalypse) given to John is about the end of time. (An example of apocalyptic literature in the Old Testament is the Book of Daniel.)

1. *How and when do you think the world will come to an end?*
2. *Describe a time when people were convinced the end was near.*

Unlike most of the other letters in the New Testament, the salutation does not include a clear reference to a human author. Instead, the revelation comes to John for the seven churches in Asia and is from God—who is, was, and is to come. (See Revelation 1:1-4.)

From the beginning to the end of this letter, the audience is reminded of the ever-present existence of God. There is no moment without God because God existed before creation, throughout our existence, and beyond history.

3. *What images come to mind when you hear the phrase, “The One who is, was, and is to come”?*
4. *Do you find these words assuring? Explain your answer.*

The revelation to John begins with a clear desire for both grace and peace to be extended to all by God. Peace is more than an absence of conflict; it is total well-being. Unfortunately, evil exists in this world and disrupts peace.

The salutation includes greetings from Jesus Christ. To understand Jesus is to know three things about him. The first is his faithful witness while on earth. The word *witness* is sometimes translated *martyr*. Not only did Jesus die, but he is also became the “first-born of the dead”. (Revelation 1:5 NRSV) Jesus brings a new creation through his death and resurrection, allowing him to claim the title, “ruler of the kings of the earth”. (Revelation 1:5 NRSV)

5. *Do you find the phrase “first-born of the dead” helpful? Explain your answer.*
6. *What does it mean for Christ to be the ruler of the kings of the earth?*

There is more and it is personal. Jesus loves us—today! Jesus loves us despite the fact that we are imperfect beings living in troubled times. Jesus frees us from sin by dying on the cross. Because of the actions of Jesus, we are invited to be part of the reign of God. To God be the glory, praise and dominion.

These verses are helpful for the celebration of Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the liturgical year as we proclaim God’s reign. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Revelation 1:8 NRSV) We are to trust God at work making all things new. (See Revelation 21:5-6) Amen. This is true. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

word among us

ABCDE... Take a moment to reflect when and where you learned the alphabet. Remember who taught you the order of the letters. Recall if you practiced learning your ABCs by writing them on paper.

1. *Anyone still remember the alphabet song? Share your stories of learning the alphabet.*
2. *Describe a time when you helped someone learn the alphabet.*
3. *If you have studied a second language, what was it like to learn a second alphabet?*

We may have learned the alphabet by a variety of methods, but the English alphabet always begins with “a”. Different combinations of letters produce words; words become sentences and paragraphs; paragraphs become essays and books. A to Z sums it all up.

The Greek alphabet begins with alpha and concludes with omega. Thus, when we hear God’s self-description as “I am the Alpha and Omega” (Revelations 1:8 NRSV), we hear of the completeness of God, especially when it relates to time. God is the One “who is and who was and who is to come”. (Revelation 1:8 NRSV) Wherever you go and however long it takes to travel, God is there, has been there, and will forever be.

4. *What does it mean to proclaim God as the Alpha and the Omega?*
5. *If you wanted to escape from God, where would you go?*
6. *When you think of your past and present, when have you been closest to God?*
7. *How does understanding God as the Alpha and the Omega help you to respond to those concerned about the end of time?*

faith practice in daily life

Hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper

Christ the King Sunday proclaims the reign of God and at the same time, reminds us of the second coming of Christ. God is still at work in our world. This is true despite the evil we see raging about in this world.

8. *Where do you see God’s reign at work in this world?*
9. *How does Christ reign in your life?*

Sometimes, we hear the word of God and are stopped by the sheer power of the words. “Grace to you and peace from [God] who is and who was and who is to come. . .” (Revelation 1:4b NRSV) There is no time without God.

And Christ will come again. “Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him. . .” (Revelation 1:7 NRSV) There is something vital and new about Jesus Christ. Since he died and became the first-born of the dead, all things have changed.

10. *Take a moment to think about the full reign of God. How do you envision God’s reign?*

Prayer

Alpha and Omega, you deserve all glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

last word

Each time you look at a clock
remember the One who is, was, and is to come.