LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH GARNER, NC 11/25/18

Kingdom style

In the name…

Let us pray….

Many people are fascinated by the royales. The ones we know most are English royales, and people are all caught up in their wedding. There was, of course, a miniseries on the Queen and a new movie is coming to the big screen on Mary Queen of Scots. Although the English royales are mere figureheads, they sure put in a lot of what I am calling kingdom style. Other kings and princes in the world still have power, wealth, along with pomp and circumstance.

Being at the end of the liturgical church year at Christ the King Sunday, we see from the readings that Jesus is not that kind of king, Power, No, Wealth No, Pomp No, Circumstance No.

When Pilate asks Jesus is He is “King of the Jews”, Jesus replies, “My kingdom is not from this world.” “If My kingdom were from this world, My followers will be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My kingdom is not from here.”

Pilate then responds, “So you are a king”. Jesus then says, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth, listens to My voice.”

Only in the gospel of John does the whole notion of truth occur. He testifies to it. Another passage in John has Jesus saying, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” We listen to His voice which dispenses truth and we are on the Way full of life in Christ.

As Jesus faces off with Pilate, we see a difference in kingdom style. Pilate has all the power, it would seem, he can condemn Jesus, He can set Him free.

So when Jesus says He has come to testify to the Truth. From Pilate’s notion of power and His kingdom style, a king or governor with power means “Overpowering” whereas in Jesus kingdom, power means “empowering”

Throughout Jesus’ ministry and in His suffering, death, and resurrection, Jesus shows us a different way of Kingdom style.

His kingdom includes the outcasts of society, prostitutes, tax collectors, widows. Jesus raises Hi voice when some of His disciples when two of the start arguing about who will sit at His right side and left side.

He probably told them. “Fellows, it is not about Prestige, it is not about making a name for one self, it is not about being well known.” Then He finalizes what He means, in My kingdom style, “the last shall be first and the first last” His kingdom seeks out the sick to heal them. He welcomes little children.. That is not the style of kingdom that people in power usually adhere to. At least if they are interested in keeping this power.

Ada Maria- Asasi-Diaz long time theologian at Drew University, considered herself a Mujerista, a story teller whose stories empowered people. As we celebrate Christ the King, we have heard how He understood the kingdom of God.

Isasi-Diaz argues when we consider Jesus’s use of the kIngdom metaphor, she says it might be helpful to see the kingdom more in terms of a “kin”dom. A new world a new kinship and new way of being in relationship with each other and god.

Let’s put on our kingdom groove.

In the name…