

The King Who Was, Is, and Is to Come

Ephesians 1:15-23



Thanksgiving Day is over now, and so for many, the restrictions on listening to “Christmas music” have been lifted. You can now blast “Santa Baby” and “Let It Snow” from your car stereos without any snobs looking sidelong at you.

Indeed, as the last few years have passed, and Christmas decorations have gone up *prior* to Thanksgiving, Black Friday shopping has begun on ...*Thursday*, and of course so-called “Christmas” music has continued its selfsame themes of snow, reindeer, and chimneys, the modern monstrosity of “Christmas” has nearly devoured Thanksgiving.

But there is perhaps a “third party” underdog candidate to the ongoing debate about when “Christmas music” should begin. And that is, that since Christmas hasn’t come yet, and in fact, it’s not even *Advent*, we might want to pump the brakes a bit!

Now of course, much of what the culture thinks of as “Christmas music” is probably more properly “winter” music, or “vague nostalgic holiday” music. But little of it is really about *Christmas*. Though we are used to conceiving of the Autumn and Winter as moving from Thanksgiving *to* Christmas, in the Church year, Christmas comes *before* Thanksgiving.

And the separation point comes on *this Sunday*, Christ the King Sunday. Here, the steady march from Advent (2016) and the lowly beginnings of the Incarnation of Christ all the way to His high exaltation as King of the Cosmos comes to its apex. Of course, in a way, *every Lord’s Day is Christ the King Sunday*, for He is King on *all* of them.

As we look at Ephesians 1:15-23 today, we’ll consider the **King Who Was** (Ezekiel 34, Ephesians 1:10), **Who Is** (Ephesians 1:15-19), and **Who Is to Come** (Ephesians 1:20-23).

Jesus Christ is King, let us rejoice in His reign!

“Under the Mountain dark and tall
The King has come unto his hall!
His foe is dead, the Worm of Dread,
And ever so his foes shall fall.” (JRR Tolkien, from *The Hobbit*)

Communion Meditation:

Christ is the Head of the Body, which is the Church. As St. Paul tells us, the Church is the “fullness of Him who fills all in all.” Christ fills all things, including His People, and through His filling of us, we become His fullness, the complement, the piece of the redemptive puzzle planned in all of eternity by the *King Who Was*; redeemed, gathered, and saved by the *King Who Is*; being prepared for glory by the *King Who Is to Come*.

This meal is used by Christ even now to prepare us for glory, and for the great feast of the King.

Word of Commission:

We’ve forgotten what it means to have a king. As we are commissioned, listen to the words of Alfred Lord Tennyson, who penned this wonderful passage about the legendary King Arthur. As you listen, consider how this also charges us as Christians as we serve the Kingdom of God, and Christ the King:

“Blow, trumpet, for the world is white with May;
Blow trumpet, the long night hath rolled away!
Blow through the living world—“Let the King reign.”
'Shall Rome or Heathen rule in Arthur's realm?
Flash brand and lance, fall battleaxe upon helm,
Fall battleaxe, and flash brand! Let the King reign. 'Strike for the King and live!
his knights have heard That God hath told the King a secret word.
Fall battleaxe, and flash brand! Let the King reign.
'Blow trumpet! he will lift us from the dust.
Blow trumpet! live the strength and die the lust!
Clang battleaxe, and clash brand! Let the King reign.
'Strike for the King and die! and if thou diest,
The King is King, and ever wills the highest.”