

+WEEKLY SERMON

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Christ the King

This autumn, I've noticed that many people around me have faced deep struggles. Some have received devastating cancer diagnoses, others have lost loved ones, and still others live with constant pain, unable to find relief.

In moments like these, it's natural to ask: Where is God in all this suffering? It's a question that surfaces often as we wrestle to understand the hardship and suffering that exists in the world alongside a loving God.

Sunday's Gospel reading marks the end of the liturgical year, celebrating Christ as King. Yet the passage chosen for this feast comes from the crucifixion - Jesus nailed to the cross, mocked by onlookers and even by those suffering beside Him.

At first glance, this seems an odd choice. Christ appears at His weakest: enduring unimaginable physical agony and public humiliation. But this scene reveals the depth of God's power and love. In giving His Son to die for us, God reconciles humanity to Himself. Through obedience and suffering, Jesus is proclaimed Lord of all.

This passage speaks directly to our question: Where is God in suffering? The answer is that He is right there - in the midst of it. Jesus walks with us through pain and loss, offering comfort and hope. In a fallen world not yet fully redeemed, suffering remains, but the cross reminds us that redemption is coming. We glimpse the promise of restoration and healing when Christ returns to reign in glory.

What a fitting way to close the liturgical year and enter Advent. As we look ahead to His coming, we remember that the battle is won, and the Prince of Peace reigns. In Him, we find hope - not only for the future but for the present, as He meets us in our brokenness and assures us of His love.

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