

Jesus Is King

This worship theme can be spoken and sung in this order or in the suggested order given on the next page. However, you should shape it to the practices of your congregation, possibly placing different elements at different places, or skipping or adding elements as needed.

Matthew 2:1-6

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

-
- The song leader reads these compiled texts. Texts are quoted from the ESV.
-

John 12:13-15 [key verses]

¹³ So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!” ¹⁴ And Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, just as it is written, ¹⁵ “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

Mark 15:31-32

³¹ . . . the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.”

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Songs

O Worship the King	HC 6	MH 15
To Us a Child of Hope Is Born	HC 220	MH 125
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	HC 173 or 174	MH 65
Wake the Song of Jubilee	HC 273	MH 199

-
-
- Choose from these songs, perhaps interspersing them throughout.
 - HC = Hymns of the Church
MH = Mennonite Hymnal
-
-

Meditation

In the Old Testament, God allowed the Israelites to have a human king even though he was their true king. He worked through the failures of their human rulers to show them what to expect from true leadership, and he honored David, a king after his own heart, with the promise of an eternal dynasty. When Jesus fulfilled this promise, exemplifying the characteristics of a true ruler and restoring the kingship of God over Israel. He overturned the expectations of the Jews who sought for a violent Messiah, and he taught us both how to lead and how to obey. Paul tells us that Jesus “humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil 2:8–11).

-
-
- Use this for your personal preparation or read it for the congregation
 - Extemporize on these questions or invite response from the congregation
-
-

- Who is blessed through Jesus’ kingship, and how?
- How does this King’s leadership differ from human leadership?
- How should we respond to having a King?

Suggested order

- I. “Wake the Song of Jubilee,” “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”
- II. Scripture reading
- III. “To Us a Child of Hope Is Born”
- IV. Meditation
- V. “O Worship the King”
- VI. A prayer