

INRI

November 20, 2016 – Luke 23:35-38

“The people stood watching and the rulers even sneered at Him. They said, He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ of God, the Chosen One. The soldiers also came up and mocked Him. They offered Him wine vinegar and said, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself. There was a written notice above Him, which read: This is the King of the Jews.”

Did you see the Super Moon, Or as some said, the Super Duper Moon? When I walked from the church to the house on Monday Evening, there were people out in front of the church just standing around enjoying the Super Moon. When I woke up on Tuesday Morning to go for a walk, the moon was still super bright as it was going down in the West. Then when I turned around to walk East, the Sun was just coming up. The Moon and the Sun looked quite close in size, but we know that the Sun has a diameter of about 865,000 miles, while the Moon has a diameter of only about 2,160 miles.

The reason that the Sun and Moon look very similar in size to the human eye is because the Moon is only 238,855 miles away from the earth, while the sun is about 92,957,000 miles away from the earth.

Then as I continued my walk, I looked in different parts of the sky and could still see the stars in the distance, and they were only mere dots in the sky.

The Sun also classified as a Star, but it is a dwarf Star in comparison to many others. The difference is in the distance from the earth.

The Sun, the Moon and the Stars were created by God on the 4th day of creation to mark the seasons, days and years. The sun to govern the day and the moon to govern the night. God created all things, including the Sun, Moon and Stars by His powerful and Almighty Word.

In John 1:1 we learn that Jesus is the Word made flesh. **“In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word Was God.”**

Today in the Epistle lesson which comes from the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Colossians 1:13-20, we are reminded once again that Jesus Christ is God, equal with the Father by Whom and through Whom all things were made.

Col. 1:15-17 – He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 – For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

When we read Bible passages such as this, it is easy to see that Jesus Christ is KING. Jesus is King of the Universe!

But what of our Sermon Text for today:

Jesus The Christ, is hanging on the tree of the Cross, and we read:

Vs. 35 – The people stood watching and the rulers even sneered at Him. They said, He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.

Vs. 36 – The soldiers also came up and mocked Him. They offered Him wine vinegar

Vs. 37 – and said, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself.

This my friends is the same Jesus who walked among these people, changing water into wine, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, raising the dead, driving out demons. - Everyone had heard the news of the miraculous things Jesus had done, and yet they sneered and mocked the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Jews were waiting for a King. Only many of them were waiting for a King Who would deliver them from the rule of the Roman Empire which had suppressed them and which taxed them to “death”.

Many people at the time of Jesus missed the point as to why Jesus came, and so they missed the fact that Jesus was and is the Christ.

Many people TODAY look to the church for deliverance from all their ailments and emotional pains, but when they come to a congregation such as St. John’s – they hear the same old story of the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting in heaven. Many become

bored and walk away because many are looking for a different type of a Savior, an Earthly Savior, and not a Spiritual Savior. Instead of looking for a Savior Who Saved their souls from Hell and Death, many are looking for a Savior Who will give aid to their earthly needs.

{Do not get me wrong, Jesus does help many, including us, from our earthly ailments, but sometimes, and sooner or later, the Lord Jesus does allow our bodies to become ill and to die. But we know that we have heaven, even as we hear later in this section from the Gospel of Luke.}

From Scripture we learn that while on the cross, there were two thieves. At first they both hurled insults at Jesus. (Mk. 15:32) But then the Word of our Lord Jesus took root in the heart of the one thief and he came to faith in Jesus as his One and Only Savior. After coming to faith in Jesus, the thief humbly said: **“Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”**

It is to this request that Jesus gave those all comforting words: **“I tell you the truth, - Αμην - today you will be with ME in paradise. - A garden, a park, an Eden -”**

What a comfort, that the Creator and King of the Universe, cared so much for you, that He came to earth to die for your sin.

You see, the payment for sin was only possible by the Blood of God, Yes the Blood of Jesus. **AMEN**