NOVEMBER 20, 2016 – LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (C): CHRIST THE KING

Today, many parishes within the Episcopal Church celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. This feast day falls on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the Sunday before the beginning of Advent.

According to “The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church” (Oxford University Press, 2005), The Feast of Christ the King was first instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as a “celebration of the all-embracing authority of Christ which shall lead all to seek the ‘peace of Christ’ in the ‘Kingdom of Christ.’”

Collect for the Feast of Christ the King
Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen (BCP 236).

Thanksgiving Day is also this week – a major feast day on the liturgical calendar. The Episcopal Church first began celebrating Thanksgiving Day after the American Revolution.

The first American Prayer Book, in 1789, replaced the four national days of the 1662 English Book of Common Prayer with propers for Thanksgiving Day. This coincided with the first observance of Thanksgiving Day as a national holiday by the United States in 1789.
In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln instituted the tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving Day each year on the last Thursday of November.

**Collect for Thanksgiving Day**
Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen (BCP 246).