

## Theme: Crown Him With Many Crowns

### Hebrews 2:9-10 (NKJV)

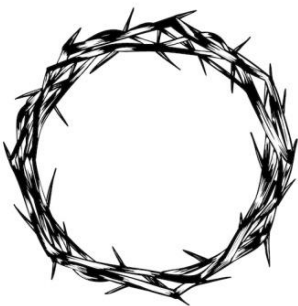
<sup>9</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. <sup>10</sup> For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

On the last Sunday of the Church year we usually celebrate the kingship of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Jesus, of course, is a king unlike any other. This unique King also has some very unique crowns; crowns which reflect Jesus' unique kingship. As we praise our heavenly king, Jesus, today and sing out those familiar words of our next hymn, "**Crown Him with Many Crowns!**" we will be considering the crowns of Christ the King.

What kind of crown do you think would be fitting for the "King of kings"? Maybe the Crown Jewels in England come to mind. According to the UK's *Historic Royal Places* website, "The Crown Jewels are the nation's most precious treasures, including the sacred Coronation Regalia used at the coronation of new monarchs. Comprising more than 100 objects and over 23,000 gemstones, the Crown Jewels are priceless, being of incalculable cultural, historical, and symbolic value."<sup>1</sup> In the printed copies of the sermon for today you see a photo of one of the crowns from the Crown Jewels. It's a picture of St. Edward's Crown which dates back to 1661 and according to that same website, "St. Edward's Crown is the most important and sacred of all the crowns. It is only used at the moment of crowning itself."<sup>2</sup>



The most priceless, the "most important and sacred of all the crowns," that sounds like the perfect crown for heaven's high king, Jesus, doesn't it? You'd think so. But as you probably already know, Jesus never wore a crown like St. Edward's.



But instead, the first crown Jesus chose to wear was **A Crown of Thorns**. His first "coronation" was one of ridicule, humiliation, and pain at the hands of the Roman soldiers. We read in our Gospel reading for today, "**They** [the governor's soldiers] **stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him.**" <sup>29</sup> **They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, knelt in front of him, and mocked him by saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"** <sup>30</sup> **They spit on him, took the staff, and hit him repeatedly on his head.** <sup>31</sup> **After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him."** (Matthew 27:28-31 EHV).

What kind of "king" is this? Why would Jesus do this? Do you think that Jesus' disciples and close followers may have thought this same thing when He was arrested, beaten, and taken to the cross to be crucified? "This is the Messiah? This is the 'King' that God has sent to save us? He won't even fight back? He looks so weak! Now He's allowed Himself to be put to death?! What is He doing?"

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london/history-and-stories/the-crown-jewels/#gs.1fqxp1>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

Well, Jesus knew exactly what He was doing! He willingly stepped down from heaven's glory and, as our text puts it, **"Jesus...was made a little lower than the angels" (Hebrews 2:9)**. He wrapped Himself in human flesh and became one of us. He willingly made His first "throne" a wooden manger. During every breath of His life He lived in perfect obedience to God's Law as our substitute. Finally, at the end of His life He willingly took on that **crown of thorns** and that horrible cross. Why? As our text says, Jesus went through **"the suffering of death...that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9)**. It also says that God made Jesus, **"the captain of our salvation perfect [or "complete"] through suffering" (Hebrews 2:10)**. He wore that **crown of thorns** so that we would never have to! He bore the stains of our sin on His sinless body and soul so on the cross that we would be declared righteous! He tasted death and hell so that we would have life and heaven!

But Jesus did not wear this **crown of thorns** forever. Because of His obedience, because He willingly wore that crown and endured **"the suffering of death,"** our text says that God has **"crowned [Jesus] with glory and honor" (Hebrews 2:9)**. We may not always realize it because it often does not seem to be this way, but right now Jesus is wearing that crown of **"glory and honor"** and is ruling over heaven and earth for the good of His believers. The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians, **"He [God the Father] raised him [Christ] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule, authority, power, and dominion, and above every name that is given, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> God also placed all things under his feet and made him head over everything for the church. <sup>23</sup> The church is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."** (Ephesians 1:20-23 EHV).

Again, we may not always be able to see Jesus' ruling power at work. We may not always be able to understand the mysterious ways in which He is controlling all things for the good of His church. We may even look at this world that we live in and think that things are completely "out of control!" But make no mistake, there will come a day when it will be perfectly clear to every eye that Jesus is King when He comes again in glory to judge all people on the Last Day. Paul writes in Philippians, **"Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"** (Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV).

What does this all mean for us? Well, because Jesus has been crowned with **"glory and honor"** in heaven, it means, first of all, that in this life we have the assurance that Jesus, our King, is ruling over us with His perfect love and protecting us with His almighty power. He is guiding and directing all things in our lives—and in the entire universe itself—for our eternal good!

Secondly, because He wore that **crown of thorns** another "crown" has come into the picture. This, however, is a crown that our King Jesus has given to us! It is the **"crown of life."** Jesus tells us in Revelation, **"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10)**. By this Jesus means *real* life; life eternal with Him in heaven! We are reminded of this **crown of life** which is ours in our stained glass window at the front of our church in Mountain View (see photo on the right).



Amazingly, this is not the only crown Jesus has won for us! Because Jesus now wears the **crown of glory** our text tells us that He has brought **"many sons to glory" (Hebrews 2:10)**. Those words are speaking of you and me! We are called **"sons,"** and as the sons of the King we will inherit His heavenly kingdom, rule with Him in heaven, and will receive a **crown of glory** of our own!

Isn't that an amazing thought? Because of Jesus we have been given the **crown of life** and the **crown of glory** when the "crown" we deserved because of our sins was the **crown of thorns**; the "crown" of eternal death. Instead, Jesus wore that wretched crown for us willingly, and lovingly. Now, that wretched crown that was meant to humiliate and inflict pain, is—despite the claims made about St. Edward's crown—the most priceless, "most important and most sacred of all the crowns." Thank You, Jesus, for wearing that crown so that He—and all of us—could be crowned with glory and life eternal!

*Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die. Amen.*

(Hymn 525 v. 4, *Lutheran Service Book*; 341 v. 4, *The Lutheran Hymnal*)