

**Empire Church of the Brethren**  
*Sunday Service Sermons*

**07 April 2024**

Both Lord and Christ

Text: "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

If He is "The Christ" He is Lord of all creation.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ was a great shock not only to those who put him to death, but even to his beloved disciples.

They were with him for three years and still did not listen to what he said and nor did they believe his words.

It is not easy to hear what someone is saying to us.

Our preconceived ideas keep getting in the way.

Especially when they are saying things that just do not happen.

Jesus said that he was going to raise up "this" temple in three days.

He told them several ways and several times what was coming but it had never happened before and they could not grasp it.

This was a new event in history.

And it revealed that in a mysterious and miraculous way the purposes of God were at work in the substitution death of Jesus "The Christ" on the cross for our sins.

It was only over a period of time, under the strong leadership of the Holy Spirit, that the disciples of our Lord came to understand that Christ was indeed the High Priest of good things to come and that by his death on the cross he had offered himself as a sacrifice for the sins of a guilty human race.

He became the Mediator of the new covenant and thus made it possible for God to be both just and merciful in dealing with our sins.

By raising Jesus Christ back to life, the eternal God was appointing him to a position of authoritative lordship as well as recognizing his redemptive work on the cross.

In our text Peter declared on the day of Pentecost that "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

There is probably no other word in our religious vocabulary that has experienced greater robbery of meaning than the word Lord.

This is a word that slips glibly off our tongues as though it were nothing more than a given name.

In reality it is a title that carries with it great authority.

If we use it merely as a given name, we misrepresent its meaning.

We need to understand the meaning of the title "Lord" in order that we might respond properly to the Christ who conquered death and the grave.

Kurios, translated Lord, was the normal word of personal address to one who was respected.

It is similar to the word sir in English, Herr in German, Monsieur in French and Senor in Spanish.

Kurios was a title recognizing authority.

"Chief executive officer" or "boss" is a title everyone can understand, and this is the implication of the position to which God appointed Jesus following his resurrection.

This term kurios was used of one who had the right to command.

It would signify the authority of the captain of a ship or the commanding officer of a military base.

It is comparable to the authority of a chief of police.

Responding to Jesus appropriately requires that we acknowledge him in more than a sentimental

basis.

We need to recognize his sovereignty and his right to be our “boss”.

Kurios describes absolute possession or ownership.

God appointed Jesus Christ to be our owner and possessor as his disciples.

This means he has the right to requisition our time, talents, energies, our everything.

Kurios was a term used to describe one who served as a guardian.

In the ancient world, women were denied legal rights.

If children or women were to engage in business, they had to do so through the services of a guardian, such as a husband, father, or brother or some other relative.

By means of a guardian, the helpless enjoyed a great degree of protection.

God has appointed Jesus Christ to be our protector.

He wants to give us strength to overcome the Evil One.

He wants to protect us from death and the grave and from the possibility of spending eternity away from God.

Kurios was the regular title given to Roman emperors.

By this title the emperor was recognized as the ruler of the empire.

By this title the emperor asserted authority.

In a world that resents authority and rebels against the establishment, we need to beware lest we fail to respond properly to the lordship of him who came because of God’s love for us.

In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, kurios was the word regularly used in reference to Israel’s God.

God was powerfully declaring the deity of Jesus Christ by raising him back to life again.

This was no mere demonstration of power.

This was a divine authentication of the God-Man, Jesus “The Christ”.

The question that Saul of Tarsus put to the Voice that interrupted his career of persecution on the road to Damascus would be appropriate for all of us: “Lord, what will you have me to do?”

Jesus Christ deserves all the respect we could pay to the finest person we know.

Because of his authority, we need to relate to him in a submissive but loving relationship.

Because he is the one whom God has anointed to be our guardian, we should be grateful to him.

Because Jesus is the one who serves as the emperor in the realm of the spiritual, we should give him our loyalty and faithfulness.

Because He is the God-Man, we should bow before him in worship as did Thomas and the other apostles.

He is our Lord!

He is our Friend.

He is our brother and joint heir in the kingdom of God.

And in and through him is life everlasting.