





Jesus is the “ruler of the kings of the earth.” This is often not easy to see or confess. The world seems to be balancing on the edge of chaos. Take the current crisis between Israel and Hamas. But the story will end with God asserting his authority over all who think that they have ultimate power. As Paul reminds us in Philippians 2: “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.”

But the heart of Jesus’ work, and the turning point of the story of God is that Jesus now frees us “from our sins by his blood.” This is how we can live joyfully and hopefully in the messy middle. We know how the story ends, and this ending means that we can get on with living, without worrying about what the future holds, and whether we’ve got our lives sorted out and parcelled up. The future is truly in his hands, and our future is therefore certain.

And God brings his future into our messy middle. Jesus forgives us through the water of baptism, and the bread and wine of Holy Communion. He frees and equips us to live a meaningful existence in the in-between times. He helps us to make sense of the pain and the pleasure that marks our life story, and he sets our sights on something much bigger than we can create by ourselves.



He “has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father...” Christ is King, and his kingdom rule comes into people’s lives through us: through the way we live for others and the way we pray for them.

John’s vision shows us that the story of Jesus’ life and death has become our story; in his death we die, and through his resurrection, we live. God’s future is breaking in on our lives, day by day. One day all the world will see

what God has been working at behind the scenes: “Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him.” The story ends with a bang, not a whimper. It’s going to be a scary day for those who written God out of the story of their lives. Those who have cut him dead will be cut to the quick. The God who had the first word will have the last. “I am the Alpha and the Omega...who is, and who was, and who is to come.”

Life can be very messy, complex, demanding and confusing. When we are in the middle of it we can so easily lose sight of the big picture. Never forget that you are part of God’s story. You know how it ends. Live and love, secure in the knowledge of how your story will end too. Amen.

**GOD’S STORY,  
OUR STORY,  
MY STORY.**