SERMON NOTES — October 20, 2024

Main point: The weekly practice of Holy Communion is a practice that is democratic at heart: a practice of equals mutual serving one another. What's at stake in the November 5 election is to continue moving forward toward a true democracy of equals.

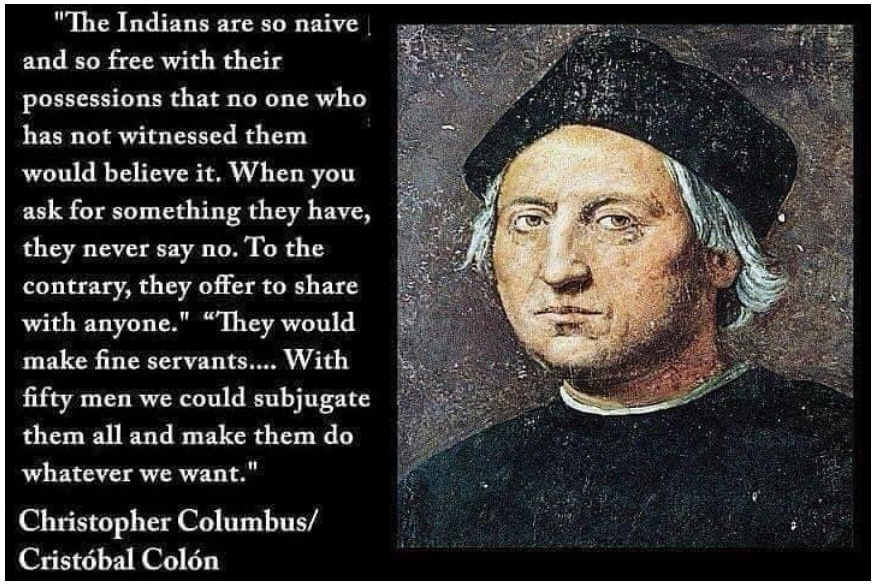
Longer-range history: the Christian movement began as a real alternative to imperialism and nationalism. Jesus teaches his followers through his differing brand of messiahship that we see starkly contrasted with nationalism in our Gospel Reading: "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Wider context of this morning's Gospel:

- Five weeks ago, Jesus takes his place to a political place to begin his political teaches about messiahship, teaching that his messiahship will begin with his execution
- The disciples keep failing to understand because they keep thinking of messiahship in imperialistic terms where the Messiah simply turns the table on ruling over others
- Jesus' third prediction of his messiahship comes in the two verses immediately before today's Gospel Reading: "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again."
- James and John lead the way in misunderstanding this time, asking to be at his side when he comes into power over others.
- Jesus' response recalls the two central practices of Christian community: "You don't know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

Bottom line: Jesus' messiahship is not about turning the tables within a nationalistic governance. It's about turning the page on nationalism altogether. It's about creating communities of equals who mutually serve one another,

Meme of the Day:



Words from Columbus' own diaries should convince us that Columbus Day should instead be celebrated as Indigenous People Day.

Remember, Jesus was an indigenous man executed in the Roman Empire. Let us listen to his indigenous wisdom as we go to the polls on November 5.