

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King of the Universe
All the good and noble inside us comes from Calvary!

2 Sm. 5:1-3; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5; Col 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

“Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord” (Ps. 122:1).

It is with joyful spirits that we celebrate the last Sunday in Ordinary Time, emphasizing our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, to deepen our understanding of His kingship and inspire our faith journey.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, is not just a figure from the distant past but an eternal King whose ongoing influence continues to shape our lives and guide us today.

The gospel reading offers a glimpse of His kingship. The passage highlights the final moments of His earthly life. He was crucified between two thieves for claiming to be a king, yet the only crown He wore was a crown of thorns. Over His head was written, 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews' -- (INRI) "Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum." Only His mother, Mary, and a few friends remained faithful until the end.

We must understand that the cross was not a symbol of failure. We must acknowledge that the cross is the very throne of our King. What appeared to be the moment of complete defeat to onlookers was actually the moment of Jesus' greatest victory. Jesus defeated death by accepting and enduring it. He gained life by being willing to let go of His life. Jesus, our King, dying on the cross, symbolized the triumph of truth, justice, compassion, and, above all, love. The greatest love anyone can show is to give his life for his friends. This is the power of our King—a power that nothing else can overcome.

We see in the gospel that, during Jesus' most profound human suffering, he accepted the repentance of the good thief and personally assured him of eternal life. “Today you will be with me in paradise” (Lk. 23:43). This also sends a powerful message of hope to all who follow Jesus faithfully as we end the liturgical year. “Today you will be with me in paradise”—these words resonate in our minds; they represent the fulfillment of everything we could ever desire, all we could ever hope for.

While earthly kings rule from palaces, Christ the King reigns from the cross. His kingdom is not just a place but a people who love Him and live according to His will. All that is good and noble in us flows from Calvary, where our Lord Jesus became the Savior of the world and secured eternal life for us with God. His death on the cross points us toward heaven and is the path we must follow to understand our lives and see a new world.

For those of us who may have forgotten that heaven is our ultimate goal, the Feast of Christ the King invites us to start living according to Jesus' teachings. In all our actions, we aim to become more like Christ because he becomes our King only when we demonstrate our loyalty. In practice, we often fall short of that promise. How many of us can honestly say that Christ is the head of our family, the unseen guest at every meal, and the silent listener to every conversation? Recognizing Christ as the King of our lives requires a change of heart, as the good thief did. We should reflect on the shortcuts we've taken in our daily interactions with others. Selfishness, hatred, and injustice must give way to Christ-like attitudes if we genuinely want to follow his message.

The kingship of Christ is realized when we allow God to work in and through us. It is a lifelong journey that requires daily conversion and drawing nearer to Him.

Consider doing a self-examination this week and reflecting on the words of St. Teresa of Avila.

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, and yours are the feet, yours are the eyes. You are His body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Viva Christ the King!

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