

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING – YEAR C

CHRIST THE KING: A THRONE OF MERCY AND LOVE



Dear beloved Parishioners,

The liturgical Year C comes to its climax and its close—like every other liturgical year—with the **Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**, commonly called the **Feast of Christ the King**. This feast marks the final Sunday of Ordinary Time and ushers us toward a new beginning—the season of Advent. Having journeyed with Jesus throughout the Gospel of Luke this year, the Church now invites us to lift our eyes upward and forward, con-templating His eternal reign as **King of the Universe**.

This feast was established by **Pope Pius XI in 1925** to reawaken in the hearts of believers the values of love, peace, and universal brotherhood—virtues dimmed by the violence and political strife that followed World War I. The Pope reminded us that Christ must reign everywhere:

“He must reign in our minds... in our wills... in our hearts... and in our bodies,” so that our whole being becomes an instrument of His love and holiness.

The readings today help us understand what kind of King we serve. In the first reading, **David** is anointed to shepherd God’s people—a foreshadowing of Christ, the Good Shepherd and true King. But the Gospel offers a startling image: **Jesus reigns from the Cross**. His throne is not gilded with gold, but formed by wood and nails; His crown is made of thorns. Amid the mockery and suffering, His royal majesty is revealed not in domination, but in **mercy**. To the repentant thief, He declares the promise that de-fines His Kingdom:

“Today you will be with me in Paradise.”

This is the heart of Christ’s kingship—a reign of compassion, forgiveness, and peace. Earthly rulers may display splendor and power, but the glory of Jesus is found in His self-giving love that frees us from sin and grants us ever-lasting life. His kingdom begins wherever hearts allow His mercy and truth to reign.

As we celebrate this feast, let us open our lives more fully to the gentle rule of Christ the King. May He reign in our minds through faith, in our wills through obedience, in our hearts through love, and in our bodies through holiness.

May Christ the King reign in our hearts and in our lives.

May God bless you all!

Fr. Albert and Msgr. Mike