

## Christ the King – 2025 (Year C)

Every so often, a famous person dies and has a funeral that is televised around the world, funerals are for someone who has impacted history in some meaningful way (such as a respected civic or religious leader)—Pope Francis, President Jimmy Carter, and Queen Elizabeth II are a few that come to mind.

One of the things I often do is look for the mourners who are in attendance. For me, the funerals that really get my attention are the ones that draw the most significant number of world leaders. It's incredible to see the heads of so many countries all gathered together.

Most citizens of the Roman Empire never saw the Emperor Caesar Augustus. Very few Egyptians ever saw the Pharaoh. Most Mongols never saw the Great Khan. And most people in Europe in the Middle Ages never saw their King or Queen. Heard about them? Yes. Felt the impact of their decrees? Probably. But actually, saw them?

Today, we gather on the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical year—the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. We are invited to use this title to reflect on our relationship with Jesus.

Is he, our King? Is he the one we want to serve? Is what He wants more important than what we want? Is his Word law, his Word embraced, his Word to become the template for our day-to-day living?

Usually, we spend today thinking about how to be good “subjects”, how to be good disciples, and how to be good servants. Understanding our relationship with God in that way is essential.

But maybe, just maybe, we should consider something a little different— a complementary aspect of what it means to be faithful, what it means to live in the light of the Resurrection.

You see, we don’t believe in a God who is just “out there”. We don’t believe in a God who is detached and distant. Instead, we believe in a God who is close, imminent, and involved. In fact, we believe in a God who actually lives with his creation, within every human heart open to his grace.

And that’s us.

- And so, that means we don’t just embrace the role of sheep, but of shepherd too.
- And we don’t just embrace the role of branches, but also that of the vine.
- And we don’t just consume the Body of Christ but become the Body of Christ, too.

Whoever Jesus is— whatever he is about, whatever is important to him, whatever choices he would make, that is who we are called to be.

And so, let's make sure the world "sees" their King. Let's make sure people don't only hear whispers surrounding him, or vague ideas about him, or distorted rumors and falsehoods regarding him.

Rather, let's make sure each person has an authentic encounter with him, the opportunity to see him up close, and a chance to build an intimate relationship with someone who wants not just the same, but even more.

And that will only come about through us-- who want nothing more than to share the Christ within us with every single person we encounter. The people deserve to see their King. The world deserves to see their King.

Jesus is in a class all by Himself. There are no competitors, no rivals. He is unique. His name is above all names. He is the King of kings, the image of the invisible God. He is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. Jesus is the Messiah—the Lord of all.