

COLORFUL SCRIPTURE

November 23, 2025

Extend Jesus' Mercy to Others

Based on: 2 Sm 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

By Marianne Couture

This Sunday is the last Sunday of the church's liturgical year – the feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Strangely enough, we celebrate the feast by looking at Jesus hanging on the cross like a common criminal between two thieves.

It is only in Luke's Gospel that we hear one of the thieves defend Jesus. Today's Gospel ends with Jesus' words to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Remember at the beginning of Luke's Gospel, the lowly shepherds were beckoned to adore the baby Jesus? Typically, in Luke's Gospel, from beginning to end, Jesus always reaches out in love to the poor, to those who are lost and to those who most need him.

In loving obedience to the will of God the Father, Jesus lived his life for us, not for himself. What looked like Jesus' final hours – humiliated, savagely beaten and eventually put to death – was really the beginning of all eternity for Jesus' believers.

By rising from the dead and overcoming death, Jesus showed everyone he is the King of all creation. He conquered sin and all its power and consequences. Jesus brought new and everlasting life in heaven for all who believe and follow him.

Jesus had said, "My kingdom is not of this world." His kingdom is in the hearts of all people who love God and neighbor. It's the beginning of heaven here on earth. It is now – stretching the limits of time into eternity. As we follow Jesus' great commandment to love God and neighbor by acts of love, kindness, compassion and forgiveness, God's kingdom grows here on earth.

Continue to practice the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy. Every word we speak, every action we take should continue to extend Jesus' love and mercy to others.

Lord Jesus, eternal, mighty and merciful King, come and be the King of our hearts!

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