

Solemnity of Christ the King Homily for November 23, 2025

Today marks the last Sunday of the liturgical year, known as the Solemnity of Christ the King. Jesus, as King of the Universe, is unlike any earthly ruler. His kingship serves as a guiding example for how we should live our lives. This feast was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 during a time when monarchies were becoming less common. Pius XI introduced this feast to counter the rising atheism and secularism of that era.

Jesus came to proclaim and reclaim the Kingdom of God, which had been taken over by the evil one. It's helpful to understand why the title "Christ the King" is used. We should consider the ancient image of a king, what this solemnity reveals about Jesus, and what it means for us, as members of the Kingdom of God.

The ancient idea of kingship involved a king making tough decisions with wisdom, mercy and justice. Kings were expected to serve their people and exemplify faith and dedication. They were meant to act as peacemakers and be ready to sacrifice their lives for their subjects. Living a holy life was a crucial part of their role, and they should be willing to give up their lives if needed. This is exactly what Jesus did: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

In the Passion of Jesus, we see Pilate questioning Him about whether He is the King of the Jews. Jesus responds, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my attendants would be fighting to prevent me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." John 18:37. Through this, Jesus teaches us that true kingship is not about glamour, power or wealth; rather, it is about service. His life shows that we are called to humble ourselves and serve others with love. A prime example of this is His acceptance of being born in a manger, despite owning everything.

As baptized believers, we should reflect on who Jesus is to each of us. Every day, we should ponder the question He asked His disciples: "Who do you say that I am?" If we live according to His teachings—loving God and our neighbors—it demonstrates that He is our King and Lord. Conversely, if we ignore these teachings, we might be serving our own interests or, worse, the evil one, the devil. Let us strive to bring the Lord's kingdom to earth as we pray the Lord's Prayer: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."