

[156]

Thirty-Fourth or Last Sunday in Ordinary Time

B

CHRIST THE KING

FIRST READING

His sovereignty is eternal.

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

7:13-14

During the night I had a vision,
and I saw what looked like the Son of Man,
coming with the clouds of heaven.

He came toward the Eternal God and was led into his presence,
where he was honored and given the power to rule as king.
People of every nation and language worshiped him.

He will rule forever,
and his kingdom will never be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

93:1, 2 and 5

R. (1a) The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Our Lord, you are King!
Majesty and power
are your royal robes.
You put the word in place,
and it will never be moved.

R. The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

You have always ruled,
and you are eternal.
Your decisions are firm,
and your temple will always
be beautiful and holy.

R. The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

SECOND READING

The ruler of the kings of the earth...
made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God.

A reading from the book of Revelation

1:5-8

May kindness and peace be yours from Jesus Christ,
the faithful witness.

Jesus was the first to conquer death,
and he is the ruler of all earthly kings.
Christ loves us,
and by his blood he set us free from our sins.
He lets us rule as kings and serve God his Father as priests.
To him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds.
Everyone will see him,
even the ones who stuck a sword through him.
All people on earth will weep because of him.
Yes, it will happen! Amen.

The Lord God says, "I am Alpha and Omega,
the one who is and was and is coming.
I am God All-Powerful!"

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Mark 11:9, 10

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is the one who inherits the kingdom of David our father;
blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

You say that I am a king.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to John

18:33b-37

Pilate called Jesus over and asked,

“Are you the king of the Jews?”

Jesus answered,

“Are you asking this on your own
or did someone tell you about me?”

“You know I’m not a Jew!” Pilate said.

“Your own people and the chief priests brought you to me.
What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My kingdom does not belong to this world.

If it did,

my followers would have fought

to keep the Jewish leaders from handing me over to you.

No, my kingdom does not belong to this world.”

“So you are a king,” Pilate replied.

“You are saying that I am a king,” Jesus told him.

“I was born into this world to tell about the truth.

And everyone who belongs to the truth knows my voice.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Feast of Jesus Christ the King Cycle B

Readings:

Daniel 7:13-14 (optional)
Psalm 93: 1, 1-2, 5 or Psalm 47
Revelation 1:5-8
John 18: 33b-37

Before the Opening Prayer:

Wish the children a "Happy New Year's Eve!" Note their reactions. Tell them that next Sunday is the 1st Sunday of Advent, the beginning of a **New Church Year**. So, today is the last Sunday of this church year, a New Year's Eve (of sorts!!)

Another name for today's feast is **Jesus Christ the King**. Ask the children to share what they know about kings. (Guide them in describing a king as a leader, one who protects/guides the people he's in charge of.) Tell them that *Jesus is a king* who is the *same* and *different* from the ones they've described. Continue with the opening prayer:

Opening Prayer: *Have children echo each line.*

Jesus Christ our King...
lead us and guide us...
to make right choices...
choices that are loving and helpful...
kind and forgiving...
give us strength...
to follow you closely...
as good Catholic/Christians...
We ask this in your name...
Amen....

First Reading:

Before beginning to read Daniel 7, ask the children to close their eyes and get pictures in their heads as they hear the reading; continue with **Daniel 7:13-14**.

After the reading, ask them to share the pictures they imagined in their heads.

Responsorial Psalm 93...or 47

Have the children pray with the psalm and see how the first reading and the psalm are alike. Both are about kings. Ask them who the king might be. (Jesus)

Second Reading: (Revelation 1:5-8)

Ask the children what they heard in that reading that connected with the other readings. Ask them to complete the blank with the name of Jesus Christ heard in the reading, "I am the Alpha and the _____ (Omega). Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. How does this connect with Jesus? Is He the beginning and the end of something awesome?? Read the Gospel to find out more!!

(continued on page 2)

Gospel Reading: (John 18: 33b-37)

Before reading the Gospel, ask the children to fill in the blanks with other names for Jesus that we sometimes hear in Gospel stories. Say, for example,

Jesus, the Light of the _____ (*World*);
Jesus, the Good _____ (*Shepherd*);
I am the _____ (*Vine*), you are the branches;
I am the _____ (*Bread*) of Life;

Ask the children to listen to the Gospel and hear another name for Jesus.

Read the Gospel.

Now ask the children if they heard another name for Jesus.....(*King or King of the Jews*). What was happening to Jesus in the story?

Explain that Jesus was a king, but not the kind of king the people were used to having. They expected him to lead their kingdom like a mighty ruler and wipe out the Roman soldiers who were taking over their country!!! Jesus tried to explain that his Kingdom was different, that he was a leader of *God's Kingdom* and that was a *kingdom made of love*. He wanted to teach them how to love each other and themselves, and that way they would know God. Jesus was strong, yet humble in being a leader.

Ask the children to tell how they are part of the Kingdom of God that Jesus leads. Guide them to see that when they speak lovingly or show love to others with kind deeds, hugs, helpful acts, then they are learning about the Kingdom and living in it like Jesus intended.

Anything they do or say that is loving helps them build up the Kingdom of God making it stronger.

Spontaneous Prayers of the Faithful (if time)

Closing Prayer: Create a closing prayer asking Jesus Christ the King to help them build up the Kingdom of God by what they say and do.