

[157]

Thirty-Fourth or Last Sunday in Ordinary Time

C

## CHRIST THE KING

### FIRST READING

The anointed David king of Israel.

A reading from the second book of Samuel

5:1-3

Israel's leaders met with David at Hebron and said,  
"We are our close relatives.  
Even when Saul was king,  
you led our nation in battle.  
And the Lord promised that someday you would rule Israel  
and take care of us like a shepherd."

During the meeting,  
David made an agreement with the leaders,  
and asked the Lord to be their witness.  
Then the leaders poured olive oil on David's head  
to show that he was now the king of Israel.

The word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

47:1-2, 7-8

*R. (8a) God is king of all the earth.*

All of you nations,  
clap your hands and shout  
joyful praises to God.  
The Lord Most High is fearsome,  
the ruler of all the earth.

*R. God is king of all the earth.*

God is ruler of all the earth!  
Praise God with songs.  
God rules the nations  
from his sacred throne.

*R. God is king of all the earth.*

## SECOND READING

The Father has taken us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

1:15-18

**B**rothers and sisters:

Christ is exactly like God, who cannot be seen.

He is the first-born Son, superior to all creation.

Everything was created by him,

everything in heaven and on earth,

everything seen and unseen,

including all forces and powers,

and all rulers and authorities.

All things were created by God's Son,

and everything was made for him.

God's Son was before all else,

and by him everything is held together.

He is the head of his body, which is the church.

He is the very beginning,

the first to be raised from death,

so that he would be above all others.

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

Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

23:35-43

**W**hile the crowd stood there watching Jesus,  
the leaders insulted him by saying,  
“He saved others.  
Now he should save himself,  
if he really is God’s chosen Messiah!”

The soldiers made fun of Jesus and brought him some wine.  
They said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!”  
Above him was a sign that said,  
“This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals hanging there also insulted Jesus by saying,  
“Aren’t you the Messiah?  
Save yourself and save us!”

But the other criminal told the first one off,  
“Don’t you fear God?  
Aren’t you getting the same punishment as this man?  
We got what was coming to us,  
but he didn’t do anything wrong.”  
Then he said to Jesus,  
“Remember me when you come into power!”

Jesus replied,  
“I promise that today you will be with me in paradise.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Thirty-Fourth or Last Sunday of Ordinary Time  
Christ The King  
Cycle C**

**Prayer:**

Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for being our King and our Savior.  
In your name we pray.  
Amen

**Readings:**

2 Samuel	5:1-3
Psalm	47:1-2, 7-8
Colossians	1:15-18
Luke	23:35-43

**Reflection/Discussion:**

Preparation: Place various pictures of Jesus throughout the room. Use many different styles and show many different aspects of Jesus.

Directions: After you have read through the readings with the class ask them to take a few minutes to walk around the room looking at the various pictures of Jesus. After they have had a chance to look at all of the pictures, ask them to stand by the one they like the best.

Discussion and Reflection:

- Which picture of Jesus do you like best? Why?
- Discuss the different depictions of Jesus in the various pictures.

Throughout the gospels we are shown different “pictures” of Jesus by the way He is described and the titles He is given. He is Mary’s son, God’s Son and is called the Son of Man. He is also called the Lamb of God. Other titles He is given and roles he has are brother, healer, friend, teacher, savior and ultimately king.

Most of you have seen the movie, The Lion King. In it, Simba sings a song called, *I Just Can’t Wait To Be King*. He is obviously not imagining it to be like Jesus as king in today’s gospel. Simba and most of us think being a king is about being able to do whatever you want, whenever you want to do it and not having to listen to anyone. It is about having power, servants, riches, and the best of everything. Jesus as king is not anything like that. Jesus is the kind of king who rules by example and by being a servant to the people. He is the kind of king who wants the best for his people and will do anything, including die, to make sure they have it. We want to follow Him and do as He asks not because of His power or wealth but because He loves us and inspires us to want to be like Him.

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**Activity: Jesus Kingly Crowns**

**Materials:** Pre-made paper crowns or cardstock, scissors, coloring materials, tape

**Preparation:** Create a royal crown template on heavy 8 ½" x 11" cardboard. Fold the cardboard in half lengthwise then make a series of triangles down the fold of the card board. Open the cardboard and trace a small circle using a penny where each of the triangles meet at the fold. Cut out the outside of the triangles and the circles so that you end up with a strip of paper with triangular points of a crown and small circular embellishments between each triangle. Use this cardboard template to create and cut-out paper or cardstock crowns for each student in the class.

**Directions:**

1. Give a blank paper crown to each student.
2. Ask the students to decorate their crowns not with jewels but with symbols and/or pictures inspired by Jesus.
3. Tape the crowns together and let the children wear them back into Church.