

## **SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING (C)**

### **LORD, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM**

**November 19/20, 2022**

There have been, there are and there will be many kingdoms on the earth. Earthly kingship is associated with sitting on a throne, wearing a crown, scepters in hand, exercising authority, show of power, and sometimes dispensing justice. One felt safe and cared for when a good king ruled. Some characteristics of the earthly king were described to the Israelites by God when they asked for a king for the first time (1Sam.8:11-18). Saul was given to them as their king, but he was not successful. Then David succeeded him.

David ruled Israel for forty years, seven years in Hebron and thirty-three more years in Jerusalem. He was a unifying figure for all the tribes of Israel. At the Annunciation, Mary was told by the angel that Her Son would be given the throne of David and His reign would have no end (Lk.1:31-33). Jesus was not proclaimed king when He was going about His ministry, but when He was crucified; Pilate wrote and fixed on the cross: "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews" (Jn.19:19). The 'good thief' crucified with Him also recognized the kingship of Christ and said: "Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Lk.23:42).

The kingship of Jesus is totally different from the earthly one. His kingship has no end. His kingship is both spiritual and temporal, because He is "the image of the invisible God. For in Him were created all things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; and all things were created through Him and for Him". This means all kingships come under Him. His kingdom is not for a select few, it is for everyone.

Through our baptism, we have become heirs to the kingdom of God. We share in the kingship of Christ, and we have been redeemed. Are we aware that we are wonderfully made? Do we cherish our status or dignity as Christians? Do we know the treasure we possess for being Christians? For some of us, being a Catholic is to be identified with the group called Christians, and not to be part of the kingdom. St. Peter told the early Christians: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own, so that you may announce the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light" (1Pet. 2:10).

But is Jesus my King and my God? Have I given myself totally to Him to rule my life or I have other 'kings' who have taken possession of my life? The thief recognized Jesus as King and when he accepted Him and expressed it, he gained salvation. His acknowledgement of Jesus' kingship went with conversion, and he was saved.

What is expected of someone who is heir to the throne? He is to live a dignified life. He has to try to be impeccable and live a good exemplary life. He is a role model and a mentor. Can these be said of me? The kingdom of Christ is a kingdom of peace and love, a kingdom of justice and fear of the Lord, so there is no intimidation or favoritism. It is a kingdom of selflessness and self-giving and all who want to occupy it become servants as He served all. I am called to promote peace and love. How are we promoting these among ourselves aspiring to be with our eternal King?

Am I waiting at the last minute to ask Jesus to remember me in His kingdom? Am I having other kings ruling my life and so find it difficult to accept Jesus as my king? Who or what rules my life? It is time for me to prepare myself every day to be part of the kingdom. Today is the day of salvation.

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## **SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING (C)**

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