

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

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November 24, 2019 • Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe • Luke 23:35-43

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## God's Kingdom Come

*The Feast of Christ the King is always celebrated on the last Sunday of the church's liturgical year. It is our way of saying "Amen" to the Scripture readings we have listened to throughout the year. In Cycle C, the reading from Luke talks about the inscription at the top of the cross on which Jesus was crucified. The soldiers had placed it there as a way of mocking Jesus: "This is the King of the Jews" (v. 38).*

**W**hat, where and when is this kingdom in which Jesus Christ rules? Before Jesus even began preaching, John the Baptist announced that the kingdom of God was at hand. Jesus, himself, announced that the kingdom was upon us (Luke 11:20). But he also said that it was yet to come (Luke 22:30). How can we explain this paradox of time and place?

The not-so-simple fact is that the kingdom of God is not a set place, nor a particular time. The popular idea of heaven (an afterlife for the good), and the kingdom of God are not synonymous. The kingdom of God is whenever and wherever we find God present in action—good triumphing over evil.

When John the Baptist proclaimed the coming of the kingdom, he was announcing the coming of Jesus. As Jesus walked the earth, he was literally God in action. He confronted evil wherever he found it—prejudice, greed, selfishness, even sickness and death—and he won. Wherever, whenever Jesus was and is, we find the kingdom. And whenever, wherever people continue to bring Christ's justice, forgiveness, healing and wholeness, we find the kingdom.

All of this, the cosmic battle between good and evil, and the victory won for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is recorded for us in Scripture. It is the story of our faith, a story that is not finished yet. We believe the fullness of the kingdom is yet to come. Jesus promised that one day good would finally triumph, defeating evil forever. On that day we will enter the full reign of Christ as King.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

The kingdom of God begins in your home. Talk about ways you can let others know you love them without saying the words.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

What have you learned most about yourself and your family over this year of journaling?