

The kingship of Jesus Christ has been affirmed going back to when Jesus was called the Messiah, but the actual feast was only added to the liturgical calendar one hundred years ago, in 1925. In the wake of World War I, history's first truly global war, Pope Pius XI created the feast as the antithesis of the divisive nationalism that led men to take up arms against their brothers, as well as an antidote to the growing secularism that denied the world's unity under God. One hundred years later and nearly two thousand years after Jesus began his public ministry, we still recognize his kingship over all the earth.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p. 140

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p. 10

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Opening Prayer:

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 130

A reading from the second Book of Samuel

2 Samuel 5:1-3

In those days, all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and said: "Here we are, your bone and your flesh. In days past, when Saul was our king, it was you who led the Israelites out and brought them back. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd my people Israel and shall be commander of Israel.'" When all the elders of Israel came to David in Hebron, King David made an agreement with them there before the LORD, and they anointed him king of Israel.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5

R/. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

R/. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the LORD."

And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem. **R/.**

Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity.

To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD. **R/.**

According to the decree for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

In it are set up judgment seats, seats for the house of David. **R/.**

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Colossians 1:12-20

Brothers and sisters: Let us give thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light. He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Luke 23:35-43

Glory to you, O Lord

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

- Nearly everyone Jesus encounters in his final hours misunderstands him. The rulers, the soldiers, even one of the criminals crucified alongside him cannot understand why he saved others but has not chosen to save himself. They cannot imagine why someone sent by God as Messiah and King would allow himself to die on a cross. They do not realize that he came to save others, not save himself. They do not realize that he came to bring forgiveness and mercy to enable us to cope with human suffering, not to rid the world of the suffering that is part of being human. They do not realize that he did not come to save us from death in the way that he saved Lazarus—who would go on to die once more—but to lead us past death to new life in the kingdom of God. Surrounding Jesus on the cross, only one man understands.
- Luke writes that this condemned man rebukes the other one, asking if he has no fear of God. To have a fear of God is to realize the power of God, to be in awe of all that God is capable of relative to how powerless we are as humans. That awe may be of God's justice or power to punish, or it may be of God's mercy or power to forgive. In his last moments, this condemned criminal realizes that he will die as someone who has sinned grievously. He has enough faith in Jesus to respect the power that he has and so with his final words he asks Jesus to have mercy on him. For nearly two thousand years now, he has provided an example of how to approach God as a sinner, which we all are: Lord, remember me and have mercy.
- During this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are reminded that we anchor our hope in the death and resurrection of Christ. Jesus died to save us from our sins, which separate us from the love of God, so that we may live eternally with God in the kingdom where he is King.

Question of the Week

As Christ is king of both this world and the next, how do I allow him to rule my life right now? What can I do to model the self-sacrificing love he proved on the cross?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Let us address our petitions to Christ our King, who sits at the right hand of his Father, ruler over heaven and earth.

- For the Church, that we may grow in wisdom and insight when interpreting God's laws in the changing circumstances of today's world and apply them justly and compassionately, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For rulers of nations, that they may recognize that there is an authority above their own, and value honest deliberation and consultation in making decisions, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all people whose rights and dignity are slighted by those in authority, especially for those imprisoned, oppressed, or persecuted, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those who have committed crimes, that Christ the King accompany them on their journey to repentance, forgiveness, and restoration. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That we may see Christ in all whom we meet and treat them in such a way that they may know that Christ is our king, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of all, you raised your Son to new life where he reigns now over the kingdom you created for us in your love and mercy. Hear the prayers we make to you today and grant them according to your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 174

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

Having received the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in his heavenly Kingdom.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us,  protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**