# “Christ the King”

Today, the last Sunday of the Liturgical year, the Church invites us to celebrate the solemnity of Jesus as Christ the King. He is not just the King of the Jews in a worldly sense as Pilate wrote on the top part of the cross He was crucified on, His Kingship is throughout the universe. All our readings point to Him as the Son of God, King of the Universe. He is the King of the universe who came to bear witness to the truth that God kept His promise. The promise He made to David that his heir would be his Son who would rule over an everlasting kingdom. As King, Jesus has come to His people and set us free.

Jesus has set us free from sin and death by defeating the devil who prowls all over the world looking for people to devour. His Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom where kings lord it over their subjects. His Kingdom is about ultimate love, mercy, and compassion for His creation. Ultimately, He desires to become our Brother and make us adopted children of God. Through His cross, Christ has reconciled us to God and we have redemption through His passion and cross. He is the first born, and the highest of all the kings of the earth.

Jesus came to us humans, in the flesh which is a stumbling block for many. The Jews were expecting a mighty warrior who would be their king. They never imagined their savior would come from a very humble beginning as the son of a carpenter who earned his living. They expected their savior to come from royalty like king Solomon who was the son of king David. However, because of their ignorance, they did not know that He is really form the line of David. Jesus came to show us the way, to reveal to us the truth, and to give us eternal life.

Today, as we celebrate the feast of Christ the King, we must let Christ be the King of our heart, mind, soul and strength, Christ wants to be our way, our truth and our life if we will let Him. In John 18:37, Jesus says **“I am the truth,”** not I speak the truth or I am here to reveal the truth. His revelation to us is that He is both divine and human and both natures cannot be separated. He is never off duty or subject to sin. His every word, action, gesture, and emotion are full of spiritual meaning and truth that would lead us to eternal life.

Jesus is the fulfillment of the vision of Prophet Daniel in our first reading. He is the Son of man coming in the cloud; who received everlasting dominion, glory and kingship over all of creation. He promised that the gates of hell will not prevail against His kingdom. His kingship, shall not be taken away. His kingdom is manifested on earth as His Church. He is the head, while the body consist of all believers. So, we are one body of Christ and every sin committed by one member of the body, affects the whole body. It is a case that the sin of one member, affects other members of the body all over the world. So, when one member sins, it is distressing to the King.

In other words, no sin is exclusive. Somehow, as established by the wisdom of God, a soul who commits a sin, drags down with itself, the Church. Every sin has an adverse effect on the whole ecclesiastic body and the whole human family. Sin occurs because we are inwardly divided. Our division occurs because we have a tendency to move towards what does not truly satisfy our inner desire to move towards God. It is a result of our brokenness due to concupiscence. So we need to confess our sins to God.

As Saint Augustine puts it in His *‘Confession,’* ***“O Lord, the depths of a man’s conscience lie exposed before your eyes. Could anything remain hidden in me, even though I did not want to confess it to you? In that case I would only be hiding you from myself, not myself from you.***

Our second reading from the book of Revelation elaborates on the promises of Kingship of Jesus.

We are told that Jesus is the faithful witness to the truth of God’s promise to David and that by His passion, death, and resurrection, He is the firstborn of the dead. Who will lead all who are faithful to His commandments to eternal life. He laid down His life for us so we can be cleansed by His blood and freed us from the claws of sin. Though He was born to die for our sins, we are the recipient of His grace to live eternally in His kingdom. He has come to witness to His peoples that God is renewing His everlasting covenant as prophesied in (Isiah (55:3-5).

Jesus also made us into a kingdom of priests so we can offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We do this by dying to self when we sin no more. And should we sin, He has left us the sacraments such as the Eucharist, and the sacrament of reconciliation as expiation for our sins. The King of the universe has given us every avenue to truly follow Him and enter into the kingdom prepared for us by His Father before the beginning of time. He promised to come back again so He could draw all the faithful to live with Himself in heaven.

He will come in the clouds and would be seen by all including those who pierced Him not only by putting Him on the cross, but because they rejected Him. As He told Pilate in our Gospel, then, all would come to know that He is the Alpha (The beginning) and the Omega (The end,) which are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. These are the two words used by God to describe Himself in the Hebrew Bible. At the end of the world as we know it, every knee under the earth and in heaven would bend and declare that Jesus is Lord, King of the universe.

 As priestly people, we share in His sacrifice at every Mass offered as a representation of His sacrifice on Calvary, and share in His witness to God’s everlasting covenant. We are here today because we listen to His voice, waiting for Him to come in the clouds to take us to our true home where we belong.

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us ask for His grace to be prepared for His second coming.