**The King of kings**

Today is the last Sunday of Ordinary Time and the end of the Liturgical Year. In 1925, Pope Pius XI made this last day of Ordinary Time the Solemnity of Christ the King. The Pope proclaimed this Solemnity for Christ the King in response to a world that was moving towards Nationalism and Secularism. His hope was that we would be reminded that all kingdom, rulers, and material things are transitory. To put it simply, all our readings today point us to Christ as the King of the Universe. He is the King of kings.

Our first reading point us to an earthly king in David. The whole tribe of Israel approached David and asked him to be their king. They wanted a king and commander who will lead them during the time of wars against their enemies. They remembered that during king Soul’s reign, God had said David would shepherd His people. David agreed and he was anointed their king.

However, king David as great a warrior as he was, he was an earthly king who would die and need the mercy of One mightier than him for his salvation. He and the rest of creation would need a King who would free us from the pangs of sin and the Devil. We would need a merciful King to free king David and us from the yoke of slavery to sin.

In our second reading, Saint Paul in his letter to the Colossians introduced us to this King sent by the Father. He is the only King who could free us from the shackles of this earthly world and lift us up to focus on things that are above. He freed us from slavery to sin and the Devil by His passion, death on the cross, and by His resurrection. He has now made us children of God so we can share in the inheritance prepared for us by His Father.

Paul told the Colossians, this King, who is the image of the invisible God by His incarnation, death, and resurrection is the first born of all creation. However, Paul pointed out that in His Divinity, this King, and the first born of all creation and first born from the dead, created all things in heaven and on earth for Himself. He is the head of the body the Church. The Church made up of all who are Baptized and who believe in Him.

In our Gospel reading, the world is introduced to the King of the universe. He is introduced as the suffering Servant. He is introduced at the moment of His glorification by His Father. As He said, it is the moment when He is lifted up from the earth, that He will draw all people to Himself. He said it is when He is lifted up that we will know that He is **“I AM.”**

However, He was rejected as King by His own people who mocked and ridiculed Him. During His passion, it was through the mouth of those who did not believe in Him that we heard the words **“The Christ of God,”** **“King of the Jews.”** Pontus Pilate another non-believer also wrote on the cross above His head, an inscription **“This is the King of the Jews.”**

The authorities in jest asked Him to save Himself. They did not know that it is only by dying on the cross that He would save many for eternal life. They did not know that out of the utmost love for us, He laid down His life willingly for our sake. It is only because of Christ the King who reigns for eternity that those who have come to know and love God would become the beloved sons and daughters of God.

Even as He was suffering, His heart was full of love for all of humanity. He forgave the good thief who knew he was a sinner and that Christ was innocent of any crime. The good thief asked for mercy and he received mercy at once. Jesus was still teaching up to the point of death. Because of this teaching on the cross, He drove home the point that we would be forgiven if we repent even as we take our last breath.

Christ the King, reigns for ever and ever. He is the Sun of justice who would gather us under His protective wings as a mother hen would protect her chicks. He is ever working in our world asking us to come to Him and enjoy His rest. He is asking us to open our hearts to Him so He could fill us with His everlasting joy. He is asking us to call on Him all the time in joy and in sadness. The question is, how are we responding to His invitation? Do we believe in Him?

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us ask Jesus to remember us in His kingdom.