

## SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

2 Sm 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

This Sunday, at the end of Church's liturgical year, the readings describe the enthronement of the victorious Christ as King in Heaven in all his glory. Instituting this Feast of Christ the King in 1925, Pope Pius XI proclaimed: "*Pax Christi in regno Christi*" (the peace of Christ in the reign of Christ). This means that we live in the peace of Christ when we surrender our lives to him every day, accept him as our God, Savior and King and allow him to rule our lives.

The title "Christ the King" has its roots both in Scripture and in the whole theology of the *Kingdom of God*. In most of the Messianic prophecies given in the Old Testament books of Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel, Christ the Messiah is represented as a King. Again in New Testament: a) In the Annunciation, recorded in Lk 13:2-33, we read: "*The Lord God will make him a King, as his ancestor David was, and He will be the King of the descendants of Jacob forever and His Kingdom will never end.*" In fact, the *Kingdom of God* is the center of Jesus' teaching and the phrase "*Kingdom of God*" occurs in the Gospels 122 times, of which 90 instances are uses by Jesus.

b) The Magi from the Far East came to Jerusalem and asked the question: (Mt. 2:2) "*Where is the baby born to be the King of the Jews? We saw his star... and we have come to worship him.*" c) During the royal reception given to Jesus on Palm Sunday, the Jews shouted: (Lk 19:38) "*God bless the King, who comes in the name of the Lord.*" d) During the trial of Jesus described in today's Gospel, Pilate asked the question: (Jn 18:33): "*Are you the king of the Jews?*" Jesus replied: "*You say that I am a king. I was born and came into this world for this one purpose, to bear witness to the Truth*" (Jn 18:37)

e) ) Today's Gospel tells us that the board hung over Jesus' head on the cross read: "*Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews,*" (Lk 23:36; see also, Mt 27:37; Mk 15:26; Jn 19:19-20), and that, to the request of the repentant thief on the cross, "*Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom,*" Jesus promised "*Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise*" (Lk 23:39-43). f) Before his Ascension into Heaven, Jesus declared: (Mt 28:18): "*I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.*" g) Finally (Mt 25:31), we read that Christ the King will come in glory to judge us on the day of the Last Judgment.

We need to accept Christ the King as our Lord, King, and Savior and surrender our lives to him. We surrender our lives to Jesus every day when we give priority to his teaching in our daily choices, especially in moral decisions. We should not exclude Christ our King from any area of our personal or family lives. In other words, Christ must be in full charge of our lives, and we must give him sovereign power over our bodies, our thoughts, our heart and our will.

We need to be serving disciples of a serving King. Jesus declared that he came not to be served but to serve and showed us the spirit of service by washing of the feet of his disciples. We become Jesus' followers when we recognize his presence in everyone, especially the poor, the sick, the outcast, and the marginalized in the society and render humble and loving service to Jesus in each of them.

We need to accept Jesus Christ as the King of love. Jesus came to proclaim to all of us the Good News of God's love and salvation, gave us his new commandment of love: "*Love one another as I have loved you,*" (Jn 13:34), and demonstrated that love by dying for us sinners. We accept Jesus as our King of love when we love others as Jesus loved, unconditionally, sacrificially, and with *agape* love.