

A serene sunset scene over a beach. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the wet sand. The ocean waves are visible in the distance, and a dark silhouette of a mountain range is visible behind the sun.

*Christ the
King Sunday*



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MONDAY – King Jesus



John 18: 37 *“You are a king then!” said Pilate! Jesus answered, “You are right saying that I am king.”*



Before we begin the Season of Advent, we are asked to reflect upon Christ our King. When Jesus was asked by Pilate if He was a king, Jesus said that He was. So, what sort of king was Jesus?

He was born in a small, poor and unimportant village. He **didn't** eat or associate with rich or powerful people. He **did** ask people to take up their cross and follow Him. He **didn't** surround Himself with politicians, soldiers or bankers. He **did** sit and eat with people who were usually despised, ignored and rejected. He **didn't** have any riches or wealth that the world thought much of; but He **did** share His

greatest possession with us - God's love.

This is the king we are asked to follow. The Shepherd King who is caring and compassionate towards us. This is the Shepherd and King we are asked not only to follow, but whose life and example we are asked to live by. Just as He looks after and cares for each of us, so we in turn are to care for each other.

Where are we to look for and find Jesus our King today? Jesus is to be found in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the homeless, the poor, the rejected and those in prison. We are to turn our attention to each other if we are to find Jesus.



Prayer: Dear Jesus, please grant me the compassion to care for those who may ask me for help and guide me to the people whom You want me to serve! AMEN.

TUESDAY – What is the Kingdom of Christ today?



Matthew 28: 18: *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Me.”*

Gerald Darring of St. Louis University gives a wonderful description of Jesus Christ’s Kingdom.

The Kingdom of Jesus Christ is a **space**. It exists in every home where parents and children love each other. It exists in every region and country that cares for its weak and vulnerable. It exists in every parish that reaches out to the needy.

The Kingdom of Jesus Christ is a **time**. It happens whenever someone feeds a hungry person, or shelters a homeless person, or shows care to a neglected person. It happens whenever we overturn an unjust law, or correct an injustice, or avert a war. It happens whenever people join in the struggle to overcome poverty, to erase ignorance, to pass on the Faith.

The Kingdom of Jesus Christ is in the **past** (found in the Gospels); it is in the **present** (in the work of the

Church and in the efforts of many others to create a world of goodness and justice); it is in the **future** (reaching its completion in the age to come).

The Kingdom of Jesus Christ is a **condition**. Its symptoms are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5: 22)



Prayer: Dear Jesus. Help me to utilize my generous gifts You have given me to grow and share the Fruit of the Spirit with others. AMEN

WEDNESDAY – Our Commitment to King Jesus



Matthew 11: 29 *Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light*



As we celebrate the Kingship of Christ this week, let us remember the truth that He is not our King if we do not listen to Him, love Him, serve Him, and follow Him. We belong to His Kingdom only when we try to walk with Him, when we try to live our lives fully in the spirit of the Gospel and when that Gospel spirit penetrates every facet of our living.

If Christ is really King of my life, He must be King of every part of my life, and I must let Him reign in all parts of my life. We become Christ the King's subjects when we sincerely respond to His loving invitation which we find in our reading today. By cultivating in our lives, the gentle and humble mind of Christ, we show others that Jesus

Christ is indeed our King and that He is in charge of our lives.

This week's celebration of Christ the King reminds us of the great truth that Christ must be in charge of our lives, that we must give Him sovereign power over our bodies, our thoughts, our heart and our will. In every moral decision we face there's a choice. He or she who seeks to live in Christ's Kingdom is the one who says, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven."

Does our home life as well as the way we conduct ourselves with our friends come under the Kingship of Jesus? Or do we try to please ourselves rather than Him?



Prayer: Dear Jesus. Let me take Your yoke upon me and learn from You. AMEN

THURSDAY – Humble service to the truth



John 18: 37 *“You are a king then!” said Pilate! Jesus answered, “You are right saying that I am king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into this world, to testify to the truth.”*



Christ has come to serve and to be of service to others. Hence, we are called to His service - service to the truth. We hear Jesus saying that the reason for His coming – the reason that He was born – was to “bear witness” to the truth. The truth to which Jesus bears witness by His life and which He teaches us is that God, His Father, is also our loving and forgiving Father, so we are all His children, forming one body. Hence, whatever we do for His children, and our sisters and brothers, we do for Him.

So we are called to be a people who reaches out to embrace the enemy and the stranger, a people who will endlessly forgive, a people who will reach out in compassion, a people who will support one another in prayer, a people who will realize that we are called not to be served,

but to serve. In other words, servant-leadership is the model that Christ the King has given us. “For the Christian, ‘to reign is to serve Him,’ particularly when serving ‘the poor and the suffering.’”

Citizens of Christ’s kingdom are expected to observe only one major law - the law of love. “Love God with your whole heart and love your neighbour as yourself.” “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” Jesus expects a higher degree of love from His followers: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

On this great Feast of Christ, the King, let us resolve to give Him the central place in our lives and promise to obey His commandment of love by sharing what we have with others.



Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, allow me to serve You with love and then share Your love with others. AMEN.

FRIDAY – The power of Christ Jesus

Luke 23: 36-37 *The soldiers also came up and mocked him...They said, "If you are the king of the Jews; save yourself."*

Luke 23: 43 *Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."*



Jesus was mocked on the cross because He would not do something “king-like” and save Himself from death. It’s like us saying “If You’re really God, then please act like it and answer our prayers – use the power that You have to help us!”

The power Christ our King has is the power to forgive. Luke tells us that Jesus accompanies us, and even asks for forgiveness on our behalf, even in the midst of violence and brokenness of all sorts. Jesus exhibits abilities and powers that are so different than ours – it is the power fit only for a King of kings.

As you step into the next church year and its first season of Advent,

my hope is that we can grow in our awareness of to what, and to whom, we give our own power. Who or what has the power to help us to discern what is important and what is not? How might we act differently if we understand that through God, Jesus Christ is the Power of Powers?

The power of love, the power of presence and protection, the power that rescues us from darkness and gives us redemption and forgiveness. It is this power that we are looking for when we say with the criminal dying on a cross – Jesus, remember me when You come into your kingdom.”



Prayer: Dear Jesus, grant me the power to love You and all creation.
AMEN