

November 23, 2025



SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Second Reading and Gospel

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.*

COLOSSIANS 1:12:13

“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.”*

LUKE 23:42-43

Reflection

I find it hard to believe that we have once again arrived on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, when Christian communities of faith celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

In the United States of America, the concept of “king” is not traditionally accepted, but is even resisted. After all, the American Revolution in 1776 was fought to separate us from the authority of the King of Great Britain. Although currently a delicate reality, the USA prides itself on being a fiercely independent democracy that claims pre-eminence on the world stage. So, what are we invited to celebrate?

By the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, in the aftermath of WWI, Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* (“In the first”) to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to “thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law” out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns and abides forever.

In the current world reality of tumultuous and wildly conflicted times, the reminder of the primacy of the Kingdom of God is something to give us pause and lead us to reflection. The Feast of Christ the King points to the end of time when the kingdom of God will be established in all its fullness to the ends of the earth. These end-time readings lead into Advent, when the Church remembers the great stories of faith and anticipates Christ’s second coming.

What does all of this have to do with my life? The feast of Christ the King offers me some perspective beyond my own limited world view. Life, and my place in it, is only a blip in all eternity and the grand scheme of creation. This is a humbling thought! I am blessed with the breadth of life and choose to live as fully as possible within the realization that all is gift. Faith is a free gift given by God, who is LOVE. God’s inclusive love invites me into personal relationship with God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. I am reminded of three facts of relationship with God.

First, God loves me unconditionally.

Second, I am invited to be in relationship with God.

Third, Life in God is steeped in life in community.

Like Jesus, I am to reflect God’s loving presence and compassion for all of creation. I am not a lone ranger, **nor is any nation or political system superior to the love and desire of God that we all share in the**

communion of God's great love.

The celebration of Christ the King awakens me to the reality of end times: mine, others, and the world. This solemnity reminds us that whenever life becomes about me or any one of us through ambition, success, affluence, power, and control, we are in trouble and off the mark. Left to ourselves, I am/we are fragile and limited, and at the same time gifted and loved. A faith-filled life is not about me, but rather about God who seeks to love me/us into life. The gift, freely given, is that we each reflect an aspect of God uniquely.

This great feast alerts me of several things:

God is the center of all of life.

My unique place in the kingdom of God is small yet graced.

I have a responsibility to serve God and the "dear neighbor without distinction."





Christ The King
Photo by Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

For Pondering

- What is the evidence of my faith and belonging to God as the center of my life?
 - When has belonging first to God caused me to pause and choose differently?
 - What is my call to “humility” at this time in my life?
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For Prayer

*Gracious and Loving God,
I rejoice and give thanks that you have blessed me with the gift of faith in you.
May I always be open to the promptings of your Holy Spirit
so that relationship with you forms my way of being and caring each day.
Only in God is my soul at rest!
Lead me! Guide me!
Deepen in me the realization that I am invited
to an ever expanding relationship with you and the dear neighbor.
By all that is good and holy and true, make me more your own each day.
May my life give witness to right relationship with all of creation
and in You, my God.
Amen.*

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