

Homily of the Solemnity of Christ the King, 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Dear brothers and sisters,

On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the King of the Universe. This Solemnity reminds us that while all governments come and go, Christ reigns forever.

In the first reading, David is made a King over the United Israel, after a period of division and hardship. People come together acknowledging their relationship with David: they are his bones and his flesh, and accept him as their shepherd and leader. This event is rooted in God's plan as David was chosen to unify the people and guide them with justice and care.

The Church reads this story on this solemnity, because David's kingship is a symbol of the kingship of Jesus Christ, and where David brought together the tribes of Israel, Jesus brings together all the peoples and all creation. Just as Israel recognized their unity and need of a shepherd, Christians are called to unite under Christ, the true Shepherd and King.

David ruled before the Lord, making a covenant rooted in God's Law, and similarly, Jesus rules with Mercy, truth, and sacrificial love, inviting all to live under his reign of peace and justice, not by force, but by grace.

Celebrating Christ, the King then is not only looking back to David's story, but focusing to the fulness of God's Kingdom in Christ, the Kingdom of Justice, humility, and justice for all.

The second reading is one of the most beautiful description of who Jesus truly is. St Paul begins by encouraging believers to give thanks to the Father who has made us worthy to share in the inheritance of his holy people. This means that God has invited us into His family, not because of our merits, but because He has chosen to love us.

Paul then gives an imagery of being pulled out of a darkness and brought into the bright sunlight. Through Jesus we receive forgiveness, freedom, and a new identity as God's children. Jesus is the image of the invisible God, meaning that if we want to know who God is, we look at Jesus, who shows us God's heart, power, and compassion.

Paul also says that everything in creation, Heaven and earth, visible and invisible, was made through Him and for Him. He calls Jesus the head of the Church: just as the head guides the body, Christ leads and nourishes His people. Through His death on the Cross, Jesus brought peace and restored our broken relationship with God.

This reading invites us to see Jesus not just as a teacher or a miracle worker, but as the center of everything. When life feels scattered or confusing, remembering that in Jesus all things hold together brings peace to our hearts. It is also a call to gratitude: our daily prayer can simply be "Thank you Lord for bringing me into your light".

Finally, knowing that Christ is the Head, helps us to trust that the Church, despite its struggles, is guided by His wisdom and love. When we keep Jesus as the center of our life, our faith becomes rooted, strong and full of hope.

In today's Gospel, Jesus hangs on the Cross, while people mock Him, "If you are the King, save yourself." The soldiers laughed, the leaders sneered, and even one of the two criminals joins those who insult Jesus.

Everyone's eyes are on the crowd, the noise, the humiliation, but the Gospel gently invites us to shift our focus from the people to Jesus. If we keep looking at the mockery, we only see defeat, but if we look at Jesus, we see love waiting for us.

The criminals beside Jesus represent two ways of looking at life. One chooses bitterness, asking for a miracle that satisfy his expectations. The other chooses trust: "Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

This simple request becomes one of the most beautiful prayers in the Scripture and the Church. It reminds us that Jesus' Kingship shines brightest when wounded people return to Him in humility.

We often wonder what would have happened if Jesus had come down from the Cross! He could have; He had the power; but had he done so, he would have saved Himself, not us. The Cross is the throne, because it reveals not fear, but love, a love stronger enough to stay, to suffer, and to save.

While earthly kings show power by dominating, Christ the King shows power by lifting others up, even when He Himself is nailed on the Cross. His Kingship is not about to escape, but about to embrace; not about punishing, but about forgiving.

Jesus does not wait for perfect people, he waits for turning hearts. No matter how late, how broken or how lost we feel, Christ the King whispers the same promise He gave to the good thief: "Today, you will be with me." This is a voice of a King who reigns by Mercy, not by might. Even when we feel forgotten or unworthy, Jesus waits for us to turn to Him, promising love, healing and life.

On this Solemnity, let us shift our focus from the voices around us to Jesus, the King who calls us by name, and never stops loving us.

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we celebrate Christ the King, the Church invites us to ask a simple question: who is the King of my life? Where do I resist Christ's leadership? For Christians, when our faith is repeatedly marginalized in public life, we can fall into the habit of compartmentalizing our lives. We love Jesus in our private lives, but we fail to acknowledge His Kingdom in social life. When we celebrate so the Solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and remind ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and of the entire universe.

Let us tell the world not in words, but in the witness of our choices, "Long live Christ the King".
May God bless us all!

