

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

JESUS KING OF THE UNIVERSE WAY TO THE FATHER



Today we are filled with joy. We celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Jesus is the King of the universe, and this should fill us with joy.

This liturgy helps us understand the true meaning of this kingship. Jesus is not a king in the way the powerful of this world are portrayed. This is the message that the readings for this Sunday seek to convey.

First, we have the story of David, the young shepherd of Israel. When he became king, he united the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. This was already a foreshadowing of what Christ would accomplish at his coming. Jesus presented himself as a unifier. But this mission was not limited to the land of Israel alone. It is offered to all people throughout the world

and throughout history. **He counts on us to be builders of unity, justice, and reconciliation.**

In his letter to the Colossians (second reading), Saint Paul also speaks to us of Christ, King of the Universe. It is through him that all things exist. **He is the Father's collaborator in his work of creation. He is the summit and the end of all things: "All things were created through Him and for Him."** Humanity's mission is to fulfill itself in the image of God. We are capable of free and unconditional love. Christ opens the way for us. He, the first to rise from the dead, walks at the head of the new humanity. **It is with Him and through Him that we go to the Father.** It is to this faith and this hope that we must all bear witness. The glorious Christ offers us a share in his victory.

The Gospel shows us how Christ became King. Saint Luke presents us with the heartbreaking image of Jesus on the cross between two criminals. **We see Him mocked by His adversaries and abandoned by His own people.** He stands between two thugs, both condemned to death. One of them was given the title of "good thief." But are there good murderers, good crooks, or good thieves? What we must see in this story is divine mercy toward the unloved and the wrongdoers.

There is a hymn that recurs regularly in our liturgies: **"Let Christ look upon you, for He loves you."** This is where we see the whole difference between these two condemned men. In the Gospel of Saint Luke, this is Jesus' last word to a fellow human being. Jesus tells him that by dying together, they will be reunited in paradise.

"Remember me..." This is also the humble prayer that we, sinners, offer to the Lord. Remember this world; remember those who are adrift. Remember those afflicted by illness, infirmity, hardship, exclusion, and war. Remember those who live without hope and without love. You are the King of the universe. You want to gather all people into your Kingdom. We firmly hope that one day you will say to us, "Today you will be with me in paradise." Amen!

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Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – November 23, 2025
