

## **Jesus the King of our lives!**

The solemnity of Christ the King comes at the very end of the liturgical year. In this feast, we gather to celebrate and recognize Christ as the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and the King of our lives. His kingdom is without end. We profess, pray, and celebrate the eternal nature of Christ's kingdom. The readings of today in different ways describe the nature of the kingdom of Christ. Pope Pius XI established the feast of Christ the King in 1925.

The prophecy of Daniel in the first reading describes the vision of Christ coming in glory, and all people, nations, and languages serve him because he has "received, dominion, glory and kingship" and "His dominion is an everlasting dominion." In the same way, the second reading describes Christ as the "faithful witness" who is "the ruler of the kings of the earth." This King loves us and has freed us from sins by his blood. He remains the beginning and the end of our being "the Alpha and Omega" More still, Jesus in the Gospel of St. John explains something about his kingdom. While answering Pilate's questions the night before his passion, he accepted his kingship but repeatedly said that his kingdom is not of this world.

The readings give us much about the nature of Jesus' kingship. First of all, he is King by birth and origin, being the Son of God. Secondly, he is the King that lives and reigns forever; his kingdom can never be dethroned or impeached. Thirdly, his kingdom is not the kingdom of force, intimidation, or imposition but the kingdom of one's choice. Finally, his kingship is based only on selfless and self-giving love (Matthew 20:28). The kingdom of Christ is a kingdom that is built-in truth. We know that there will be no justice without truth, and without justice, there will be no peace. The foundation of all this is love because love is just, peaceful, and truthful.

As we acknowledge Jesus as the King of our lives, let us continue through our lives to foster this everlasting kingdom. If Jesus is the King of our lives, then we have to recognize him in our day-to-day choices and decisions. The simple question we can ask ourselves this week as we prepare to begin the season of advent is, "Where is Jesus, the king in my life." Do I allow this kingdom I profess, pray, and celebrate to reign in my life? We know that we cannot change everything, but there is something we can change, and that change surely will make a lot of difference to somebody it touches. Jesus, the King of kings, can help us if we call on him. As we describe it, His kingdom is the kingdom of truth, justice, peace, and love. Let us ask him for the virtues you need to make his kingdom reign in your family, place of work, and even in the worship community. Amen.