



‘Worship at home’ Sunday November 24th 2024



Today is known as **Christ the King,**
or **Reign of Christ** Sunday in the church’s liturgical year.
We come to worship God in whom
we live and move and have our being.

Opening

Christ is the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
Who came to earth to set us free
and humbly chose the loving way.
Jesus who lived in love and grace
shows us how a king would truly live.
He overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
He is seated at God’s right hand in glory.
We believe that He will come again to reign.
Christ loved and helped all people,
may we become more like Him.
Christ the King is here for all.
Let us worship Him.



On Christ the King Sunday we consider the reign of Christ in our world, in his time on earth, and his anticipated return to reign once and for all in the fullness of God’s kingdom. This is the last week of the church’s liturgical calendar, and marks the end of the Christian year. Next week is the beginning of Advent, with its proclamation of hope and expectation.

In what ways do you see Christ as King?

What does the term “kingdom of God” mean for you? 1

Christ the King Sunday is not an ancient Jewish festival, but was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925. At that time Europe was in turmoil, after the First World War and in the uncertainty before the Second World War. The Pope established the Festival of Christ the King to declare that Jesus Christ was King over the chaos and uncertainty of that time. This is quite political, and as we consider Christ as Lord and King, we might think about the language and the pictures evoked. For many, the images of kings and kingdoms conjure up thoughts of tyrants and oppression. Even now, we see world leaders battling for power and for the control of trade, weapons, land, resources, and people. However, the kingship of Jesus takes on a very different form than does the kingship of earthly rulers.

John 18:33-37

Pilate went back into the palace and called Jesus. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked him. Jesus answered, "Does this question come from you or have others told you about me?" Pilate replied, "Do you think I am a Jew? It was your own people and the chief priests who handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus said, "My kingdom does not belong to this world; if my kingdom

belonged to this world, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish authorities. No, my kingdom does not belong here!" So Pilate asked him, "Are you a king, then?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this one purpose, to speak about the truth. Whoever belongs to the truth listens to me."

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As we anticipate Advent, we remember that Jesus was born in a stable, not a palace, and lived a simple life with few possessions. Jesus served with humility, speaking out the truth of God's love and grace, rather than enforcing rules by power and might. The kingdom of God has very different values than those of this world. Christ reigns when we place him first and foremost in our lives, and seek to live according to his values of truth, love and grace. 2

*Seek FIRST
the Kingdom
of God*

The kingdom of God is not about a place or a time: rather, it transcends all place and time. The kingdom of God has always been, is now, and always will be. The kingdom of God began with the creation of the world, was fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ, and looks forward with anticipation to the fulfilment of that kingdom once and for all. Yet we live in the kingdom of God, here and now, when we place Christ at the centre of our lives.

For those who abandon themselves to it, God's love contains every good thing, and if you long for it with all your heart and soul it will be yours. All God asks for is love, and if you search for this kingdom where God alone rules, you can be quite sure you will find it. For if your heart is completely devoted to God, your heart itself is this treasure, this very kingdom which you desire so ardently.

Jean Pierre de Caussade, 1675-1751
Abandonment to Divine Providence.



In what ways do you give allegiance to Christ as 'Lord' of your life?

How do you live out the kingdom of God, here and now?

Into places of conflict

may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one made hungry

may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one made homeless

may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one who is in despair

may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one who has been abused

may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of the fearful

may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of one we wish to pray for...

may Your Kingdom come.

Into the heart of our world.

may Your Kingdom come.

~ adapted from <http://wellsprings.org.uk>

Prayer

Let us give praise for Jesus Christ
as Lord and King;
Prince of Peace, King of Glory, Lord of Love.
Who came to this earth as babe,
lived as one of us.



In whom the fullness of God's love and grace were revealed,
And who, through the power of the resurrection,
has fulfilled the kingdom of God,
making us and all creation one in Him.

Lord, we pray for your Kingdom to be here now,
bringing justice, righteousness, hope, love,
peace, mercy and grace for all.

We look forward to your coming again,
but as we wait and hope,
we commit ourselves again to living out this kingdom,
to allowing your love and grace
to also be revealed in us, and in our world.

Your kingdom come, we pray.
Your will be done.
May it indeed be so. Amen

Closing

*Grace and peace be yours from God,
who is, who was, and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits in front of his throne,
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness,
the first to be raised from death
and who is also the ruler of the kings of the world.
He loves us, and by his sacrificial death
he has freed us from our sins
and made us a kingdom of priests
to serve his God and Father.
To Jesus Christ be the glory and power
forever and ever! Amen.*

Revelations 1:4b-6
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