

Christ the King, Year C – 24th November 2019

Introduction

Today is the feast of Christ the King. Jesus was called Christ the King and King of Kings. What kind of king is he? Let's find out today...

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.)

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. (An adult lights the candles).

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Ask them if they have always been kind and helpful to others, obedient to their parents, listened to their teachers etc.

Lead the children in singing the "Sorry Song".

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord,
In Your love,
Help us to do better, (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

Gloria

Choose a children's version of the Gloria from one of our listed Children's Liturgy Resource books, or you may have another CL resource. You will probably want to practice your chosen Gloria and use it every week so that everyone becomes familiar with it.

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Sing Alleluia
To Our Lord
Jesus Christ
King of all the Earth
And of all the Heavens,
To our God and King (same tune as above),
Alleluia Sing!

Gospel

Select the Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on page 139 of "Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year C)

Luke 23: 35-47

"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke".

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart (in this way we think God's word, speak God's word and keep God's word in our hearts) **as we say together "Glory to You, O Lord."**

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say: **"The Gospel of the Lord"**.

All reply: **"Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ"**. Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

What did you hear in the gospel reading today?

- Jesus was hanging on the cross. The people, soldiers and one criminal made fun of him. Jesus, asked God to take him into Heaven. He promised one criminal a place in Paradise. One of the soldiers said that Jesus was a good man.

Why do you think that the people, soldiers and one criminal did not believe that Jesus was a King?

- He was not rich in worldly goods, did not have a lot of servants and did not seem to have power.

Let's compare a King, as we typically think of a King to Jesus the King of Kings. (If you wish you can bring or make a crown that is typical of worldly kings and bring or make a crucifix that represents Jesus.) Ask if one child would like to hold/wear the crown and one child to hold the crucifix. (If you don't have a crown or crucifix you can ask a child to pretend to be each king.)

- What comes to mind when you think of a worldly king?
 - Sits on a throne, wears a golden crown, dresses in fancy robes and jewels, wealthy, lives in a castle, owns lots of land, rules many servants and soldiers, has power, is supposed to look after the kingdom, maybe is not nice to everyone
- What comes to mind when you think of Jesus?
 - The cross is his throne, wears a crown of thorns, dresses in simple clothes, poor, born in a stable, the son of a carpenter/joiner, disciplines follow him, has spiritual power to perform miracles and heal people, is kind to everyone, wants everyone to be honest and helpful to others
- Point out that the inscription INRI at the top of the crucifix is a name given to Jesus by Pilate which in Latin (Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum) stands for Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

How do you think that Jesus felt when the people, soldiers and criminal laughed at him and didn't think he was Christ the King? Have you ever felt that way?

Jesus did not let those feelings bring him down as we learn at the end of story. He gave his life to save all of us.

What did the second criminal and Jesus say to each other?

- The criminal said that he wanted to be remembered when Jesus went to Heaven and Jesus said that he would be welcomed there. Since he was sorry for his sins, Jesus forgave him and would welcome him to Heaven.

What does this mean to us?

- Jesus is forgiving if we are sorry. He is with us always, even in the hardest times.

Can you think of time when you did something wrong and said sorry to God?

This week remember that God loves and cares for you even when you know that you have been naughty. Say sorry and try to be better next time. If you see someone near you like a friend, parent or sister/brother struggling you could offer to help them. They will be thankful not to be alone and struggling. Can you think of some examples of how you could help?

This is the last Sunday of the church's year. Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent.

Prayers of the Faithful (optional/ time dependent)

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

We pray for our earthly rulers: Kings, Queens, Prime Ministers, and Presidents. May they rule their people with wisdom and care, following the example of Jesus.

**Lord, in Your mercy,
All: "Hear our prayer."**

Help us to remember that God is always with us - even in the hardest times.

Lord in your mercy,

All: "Hear our prayer."

Lord Jesus, give us the strength to help each other when things are difficult.

Lord in your mercy,

All: "Hear our prayer."

Lord, help us to “shine” with goodness and kindness and show Your love to everyone we meet.

We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord. Lord in Your mercy,

All: “Hear our prayer.”

Closing Prayer

O King of Kings, you died so that we might have life. Help us to serve one another and care for each other even in the most difficult times. Amen.

Offertory Procession

Now ask for 4 volunteers for the Offertory Procession. After the procession, children return quietly to sit with their families in church.