

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Last Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C)

2 Samuel 5:1-3: The Anointing of David as King of Israel

1. The Twelve tribes: gather to anoint David as “shepherd” and “prince” and “king”
2. Omitted: “David was thirty years old when he when began to reign, and he reigned forty years” (2 Sam 5:4).

Psalm 122: Let Us Go Rejoicing to the House of the Lord

1. Psalm of pilgrimage to Jerusalem (vv. 1-2)
2. Ingathering of all twelve “tribes” (vv. 3-4)
3. Goal of Pilgrimage: to “give thanks” to the LORD (v. 4)

Colossians 1:12-20: He has Transferred Us into the Kingdom of His Son

1. From “the dominion of darkness” → “the kingdom of his beloved Son”
3. “All things” were created “through him and for him”
 - a. In heaven and on earth
 - b. Visible and invisible
 - c. Thrones and dominions
 - d. Principalities and authorities
4. “In him all the fullness of God” was pleased to dwell

Luke 23:35-43—Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom

1. Onlookers scoff at Jesus: he looks like a criminal, not a king
 - a. If you are “the Christ” or “the Anointed One” (Greek *ho christos*)
 - b. If you are “the King of the Jews”
2. The “good thief”: “Jesus, remember me *when you come into your kingdom*”
3. “You will be with me in Paradise” (Greek *paradeisos*); cf. “garden” (Gen 2:8 LXX)

The Liturgy: Prayer over the Offerings

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you *anointed* your Only Begotten Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ, with *the oil of gladness*
As eternal Priest and *King of all creation*,
So that, by offering himself on the altar of the Cross
As a spotless sacrifice to bring us peace,
He might accomplish the mysteries of human redemption
And, making *all created things subject to his rule*,
He might present to the immensity of your majesty
An eternal and universal kingdom,
A kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace,
A kingdom of justice, love and peace.
And so, *with Angels and Archangels*,

The Mass Readings Explained

With Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and powers of heaven,
We sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

Questions for Discussion, Reflection, and Application (Christ the King, Year C)

1. The readings for this Sunday are the last Sunday of Ordinary Time before the final feast of Christ the King, which will end the liturgical year C. Why do you think the Church chooses to end Ordinary Time with Jesus' rather dire prophecies of the destruction of the Temple and the persecution of the disciples?

2. How do you imagine the final judgment? Jot down some of your impressions, and then compare them with the response of creation in Psalm 98.

3. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, ever “since the Ascension” of Jesus, “we are already at the ‘the last hour’” (CCC 670). What are the implications of the teaching in CCC 670?
