

OT XXXIV [B] (24th Nov '24), Christ the King Sunday

As we come to the final Sunday of the liturgical year, we are invited to reflect on the Kingship of Christ. Today's feast, which the Church celebrates with great reverence, marks the enthronement of Jesus as the Eternal King in all His glory. This solemnity, instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925, brings us face to face with the reality that Christ reigns over all creation and invites us to surrender our lives to Him. The proclamation of "*Pax Christi in regno Christi*" (the peace of Christ in the reign of Christ), reminds us that true peace can only be found when we allow Christ to be the King of our hearts, our families, and our world. But why is Christ our King? Let us explore this through three important reasons;

First, Christ is our King because He is God, the Creator of the universe. In the opening verses of the Gospel of John, we read, "All things were made through Him" (John 1:3).

Secondly, Christ is our King because He is our Redeemer. We are Christ's property and possession because He purchased us with His own precious blood.

Thirdly, Christ is our King because He is the Head of the Church, "holding in all things the primacy".

When we analyze the Biblical Foundation of Christ's Kingship, The title "*Christ the King*" has its roots both in Scripture and in the whole theology of the *Kingdom of God*. In most of the Messianic prophecies, given in the Old Testament books of Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel, Christ the Messiah is represented as a King.

In the New Testament, the *Kingdom of God* is the center of Jesus' teaching, and the phrase "*Kingdom of God*" occurs in the Gospels 122 times, of which 90 instances are used by Jesus. I would like to highlight some of them;

1) In the Annunciation, recorded in Lk 1:32-33, we read: "...and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the House of Jacob forever; and of His Kingdom there will be no end." 2) The Magi from the Far East came to Jerusalem and asked the question: (Mt 2:2) "*Where is the Baby born to be the King of the Jews? We saw His star... and we have come to worship Him.*" 3) During the royal reception given to Jesus on Palm Sunday, the Jews shouted: (Lk 19:38) "*God bless the King, Who comes in the name of the Lord.*" 4) During the trial of Jesus described in today's Gospel, Pilate asked the question: "*Are you the king of the Jews?*" (Jn 18:33), and Jesus replied: "*You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the Truth*" (Jn:18:37) 5) The signboard hung over Jesus' head on the cross read: "*Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews.*" 6) Before his Ascension into Heaven, Jesus declared: "*All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me; go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations ...*" (Mt 28:18ff)." 7) Finally, in Matthew 25:31, we read that Christ the King will come in glory to judge us on the day of the Last Judgment.

How Do We Respond to Christ the King?

- 1) Surrender our lives to Christ the King.
- 2) Serve as disciples of a serving King.
- 3) Accept Jesus as the King of Love.

As we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, we are reminded that Christ is the King who reigns over all creation, the King who redeemed us through His death on the Cross, and the King who continues to rule in our hearts. Let us renew our commitment to His kingship, surrendering our lives to Him, serving others with love, and proclaiming His reign in all that we do. May we live as faithful Disciples of Christ, our King of love, now and forever.