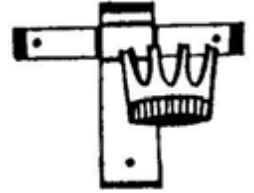


## THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING



### Solemnity of Christ the King (Year C) – November 21, 2010

What's all this talk about a king? There are very few countries where monarchy is the form of government. This country has the history of having rebelled against what our ancestors considered an unjust king. This legacy may, unfortunately, make it difficult for us to fully appreciate the Judeo-Christian image of the Kingdom of God. Whereas human kings, no matter how benevolent, can use their power for evil, Christ's rule over us is always for our good. Can we embrace that wonderful truth?

The Church has long recognized how awesome the image of Christ as our King truly is. In setting the Liturgical (Church celebrations) Calendar, the final Sunday of the Church year has been reserved for the Solemnity of Christ the King, so that we can see that the entire year leads us to God's Kingdom. Next week we begin the new Liturgical Year with the First Sunday of Advent. By this back to back positioning of celebrations, the Church reminds us that the Father promised the Savior to ancient Israel, kept that promise in the person of his Son; who taught, suffered, died and rose triumphant from the dead and Ascended into heaven where he now reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, in a Kingdom that has no end.

The Gospel passage for today (Lk 23:35-43) helps us to clearly see that Jesus' Kingdom is not of this world; it is OVER this world and all its powers! The Jewish authorities of the day got their way when Pilate ordered Jesus to be crucified. However, their combined power was no match for the power of God at work in the silent darkness of the tomb on Easter morning!

Today's Old Testament reading (2 Sm 5:1-3) tells how David, who is an ancestor of Jesus, was anointed King of Israel. The Israelites had begged for a king to rule them, as other nations had a king. Because God knew he was their true King, he only reluctantly complied with their request. Saul was selected by God to be the first human king for Israel. Saul, David, Solomon, and all the Kings of Israel, because of their human weaknesses, failed to always reflect God's will for his people. Though they suffered for their wrong doing, God never abandoned his chosen ones. In fact, despite how people, past, present and future, turn from God, he sent his Son to lead us out of darkness. In his wisdom, God has provided the King our Jewish ancestors longed for.

The second reading today expresses well the wisdom of God at work in the world. As members of that Kingdom, let us rejoice and be glad!

***“Give thanks to the Father for having made you worthy to share the lot of the saints in light. He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. Through him we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creatures. In him everything in heaven and on earth was created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominations, principalities or powers; all were created through him. He is before all else that is. In him everything continues in being. It is he who is head of the body, the church...”***

(Col 1:12-18a...)

***A Shepherd Shares  
Fr. Tom Stabile, T.O.R.***