

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

November 25, 2018

Solemnity of Christ the King

Today's Readings

Daniel 7:13–14
Psalm 93:1, 2 & 5
Revelation 1:5–8
John 18:33b–37

Jesus Is Our King

Preparation

Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



Prepare with Prayer

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; cry out to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with a song of praise, joyfully sing out our psalms. For the LORD is the great God, the great king over all gods, Whose hand holds the depths of the earth; who owns the tops of the mountains. (Psalm 95:1-4)

Scripture Background

Most of the Church's first Christians were Jewish and therefore well versed in the holy books we know today as the Old Testament. Because of Jesus' teachings, and his Death and Resurrection, biblical quotations these early believers had known since childhood shone with a brilliant new meaning.

Such was the case for the passage from the Book of Daniel found in today's First Reading. In a vision the prophet sees a son of man in the midst of clouds being "presented to the Eternal God" (7:13). What better image for the Son of God's glorious Ascension into Heaven after his Death and Resurrection? Next, Daniel sees this man crowned king "of every nation and race" (7:14) in a kingdom destined to last forever. What better image for the Second Coming of Christ, repeatedly promised by Christ himself and later by his Apostles?

Now jump ahead from the Book of Daniel to the last book of the New Testament, Revelation. Here, the author speaks from decades of meditation on the meaning of Christ's life, Death, and anticipated Second Coming. The author knows that protection

Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a gold or white cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a green plant or fresh flowers

For use during the homily, assemble the bags or print out the worksheets described in Relationship to Children. You also may wish to show the children downloaded pictures of King Wenceslas, King Henry VIII, King Herod Antipas, and Christ the King.

Suggested Music

See page 62 for more information.

Gathering: "The Trinity" (*Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #22*) or "Upon This Rock" (*Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #21*)

Gospel Acclamation: "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (*Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24*)

from his people's enemies had been the primary duty of every Old Testament king. Because Jesus became "the first to conquer death" (1:5), he is destined to rule over all kings and, indeed, all peoples of the earth. He has conquered sin and death. As if that singular victory weren't enough to distinguish him from any other king who ever lived, he also plans to share his dominion with all his followers, allowing them to join him as kings and priests in his kingdom! (1:6)

No wonder Jesus tells Pilate in today's Gospel, "My kingdom doesn't belong to this world" (John 18:36). Indeed, what king ever engaged in "power sharing" to the extent that Christ will do when he comes again?

Children's Connections

Learning how to analyze and classify is part of every young child's intellectual growth, and most enjoy the fun and challenge of simple games like "Which one doesn't belong?" Today's homily will use this game to build up to a careful consideration of how and why Christ the King is different from all other kings.

You will need to prepare ahead of time a few bags filled with assorted household items. Each will contain four items that are fairly similar, except for one that has enough differences to make it out-of-place in the group. Following are some suggestions for items you can collect, along with a brief explanation of why the last one doesn't belong with the others.

- ▶ sandal, boot, tennis shoe, hat (worn on the head, not the foot)
- ▶ knife, fork, spoon, soda straw (used to drink, not eat)
- ▶ saucer, plate, bowl, dog dish (used for pets, not for people)
- ▶ screwdriver, pliers, hammer, spatula (a kitchen utensil, not a handyman's tool)
- ▶ orange, apple, banana, onion (not a fruit)
- ▶ carrot, green pepper, onion, banana (not a vegetable)
- ▶ pencil, pen, crayon, clothes pin (can't be used to draw or write)
- ▶ book, magazine, writing tablet, CD (not made of paper)

More About ...

The Solemnity of Christ the King

- Pope Pius XI hoped that creating this solemnity would help restore respect for Christ and his kingdom in a postwar world rapidly slipping into greed, materialism, nationalism, and individualism.
- After its institution in December of 1925, this feast was celebrated every year on the last Sunday of October.
- In 1969 Pope Paul VI moved this feast to the last Sunday before Advent, so that its emphasis on the Second Coming would cap a year of commemorating all the important events in the earthly life of Christ.
- Currently this solemnity is also observed by Anglicans, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists, and other Christians.
- References to Christ the King appear in Paul's letters to Timothy, the Gospels of Matthew and John, and the Book of Revelation.

- ▶ penny, nickel, dime, dollar bill (not made of metal, not a coin)

For this game, children will enjoy seeing and handling actual objects, but if you prefer, download free worksheets from the Internet. Simply go to billybear4kids.com/games/mapedit/mapedit.htm and click on any game you want. Follow the instructions on the site to print.

The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps children learn about Christ the King through a summary of the Gospel, prayer, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

Leaflet Activity

This week, the children will learn about how Jesus is the greatest and most important king of all.

kind	angry
generous	fair
selfish	merciful
caring	jealous
loving	truthful

The Liturgy of the Word

Gathering

After reaching the worship space, invite the children to be seated. Make sure each child has plenty of space. Tell them there are hand motions to accompany the opening song, which is about preparing for Christ when he comes again. As the song plays, the children should simply imitate whatever you do. Here are the hand motions:

Refrain

Prepare the way for the coming of God. Make a straight path. (Wave hands like windshield wipers in front of yourself.)

Verses

1. Ev'ry valley: fill it in. (*Cup hands and raise them.*)
Ev'ry mountain: make it small. (*Flip hands over and lower them.*)

2. Crooked pathways: make them straight. (*With right index finger, trace a winding path downward in front of oneself, then a straight path upward.*)
All the rough land: make it smooth. (*Do the same with left index finger.*)

3. All will see: God's power strong. (*With head turned upward and one hand to forehead, scan sky from left to right.*) God has promised: glory comes. (*With hands straight overhead and fingers fluttering, sweep hands down straight in front of oneself.*)

When the song is finished, ask the children to bow their heads for the opening prayer.

Collect

Leader: *Invite the children to bow their heads. Then pray:*

Lord Jesus Christ, when you come again in glory, may we be ready to greet you in hope and joy. Forgive us for the times we have not done what you ask of us, but have followed our own desires instead. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, may we become ever more faithful to you.

Children: Amen.

Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.

First Reading

Leader: Hundreds of years ago, the prophet Daniel had a great vision of what it will be like when Christ comes again.

Read Daniel 7:13-14. Then say, "The word of the Lord."

Children: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

Leader: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Children: The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.

Leader: *Read Psalm 93:1, 2 and 5.*

Second Reading

Leader: In today's Second Reading, Saint John talks about the things Jesus accomplished in his life on earth, then talks about his Second Coming. *Read Revelation 1:5-8.* Then say, "The word of the Lord."

Children: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Gospel Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

Proclaim the Gospel

Leader: We have just heard Saint John say that Jesus became the king of all humanity because he conquered death. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that his kingdom is different from any other. The Lord be with you.

Children: And with your Spirit.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel of John.

Children: † Glory to you, O Lord.

Leader: *Read John 18:33b-37. Then say,*
“The Gospel of the Lord.”

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

1. Take one of the bags you prepared and draw the objects out of it one at a time, each time asking the group, “What’s this?” Then ask, “Which one doesn’t belong with the others?” and “Why not?”
2. Invite volunteers to step forward and do the same with the items in the remaining bags.
3. Explain that now you want to say something about four different powerful men who lived long ago. Then have the children tell which doesn’t really belong with the others.
 - ▶ Wenceslas was a beloved duke of Bohemia about 1,000 years ago. He helped establish Christianity in his country, shared his riches with the poor, and after his death was named a saint.
 - ▶ Henry VIII was the wicked king of England about 500 years ago. He ordered the execution of many people, including two great saints (John Fisher and Thomas More) and two of his own wives!
 - ▶ Herod Antipas was a proud Jewish king who ordered the death of John the Baptist and later played a role in the death of Christ.
 - ▶ Christ the King rules the Kingdom of Heaven. He won it by conquering sin and death with the power of love.
4. Explain why Christ doesn’t belong with the other kings.
 - ▶ He was the Son of God, not just an ordinary human being, and completely without sin.
 - ▶ His kingdom does not belong to this world.
 - ▶ His kingdom will not be complete until he comes again.
 - ▶ When he returns, he will gather into his kingdom members of every race and nation.
 - ▶ He will give every member of his kingdom the gift of everlasting life.

- ▶ He will even make all his followers kings and priests just like himself (Revelation 1:6).

Profession of Faith

Leader: Please stand for the Profession of Faith and answer each question with the words, “I believe.” Do you believe in God the Father, almighty and all-loving, who put the world in place so that it will never be moved?

Children: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son?

Children: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life?

Children: I believe.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Now let us pray for all God’s people. Our response to each petition will be, “Hear us, O Lord”

Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: For all people in cold northern lands, especially those who need shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: For all people in hot southern lands, especially those who need enough water to grow their crops, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: For all people in lands east and west torn apart by injustice and war, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Let us pray. Holy God, we look forward with hope and joy to the day your Son returns to earth. May all people praise him, now and forever.

Children: Amen.

Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven’t already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families.