

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

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This feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI at the close of the Holy Year, 1925. The purpose of the Holy Father was to bring home to all mankind the fact that Christ is King not merely over individuals, but over families and societies, over states and nations, over rulers and tribunals as well. The duty of Catholics is to hasten the return of the world to His authority by their prayers, their influence, and their actions. They are reminded that they must courageously fight under His royal banner, with the weapons of the spirit, for the rights of God and of His Church.

The last Sunday of October was chosen for the feast, the Sunday preceding All Saints, because during this month the liturgical year draws to its close and thus the mysteries of Jesus Christ are fittingly completed and crowned by the liturgical festival of Christ, the King. On the same day also will annually take place the consecration of mankind to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Christ is proclaimed King of all mankind both in the Old and the New Testament. David, Isaias, Daniel and Zacharias in plainest terms predicted the kingship or the kingdom of the future Messiah. At the coming of Christ the Angel Gabriel announced that "of His Kingdom there shall be no end." The Savior Himself declared His kingship before Pilate. But His kingdom, though in this world, was not to be of this world. On the last day He will present Himself together with His kingdom to His Father, when all His enemies shall have been put under His feet.

INTROIT Apocalypse 5: 12; 1: 6

Dignus est Agnus, qui occisus est, accipere virtutem, et divinitatem, et sapientiam, et fortitudinem, et honorem. Ipsi gloria et imperium in saecula saeculorum. (Ps. 71: 1) Deus, iudicium tuum Regi da: et iustitiam tuam Filio Regis. Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Dignus est Agnus, qui occisus est, accipere virtutem, et divinitatem et sapientiam, et fortitudinem, et honorem. Ipsi gloria et imperium in saecula saeculorum.

COLLECT

Omnipotens sempiterna Deus, qui in dilecto Filio tuo, universorum Rege, omnia instaurare voluisti: concede propitius; utunctae familiae Gentium, peccati vulnere disgregatae, ejus suavissimo subdantur imperio: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

EPISTLE Colossians 1: 12-20

Fratres: Grátias ágimus Deo Patri, qui dignos nos fecit in partem sortis sanctorum in lumine, qui eripuit nos de potestate tenebrarum, et transtulit in regnum Filii dilectionis suae, in quo habemus redemptionem per sanguinem ejus, remissionem peccatorum. Qui est imago Dei invisibilis, primogenitus omnis creaturae; quoniam in ipso condita sunt universa in caelis et in terra, visibilia et invisibilia, sive throni, sive dominationes, sive principatus, sive potestates: omnia per ipsum et in ipso creata sunt: et ipse est ante omnes, et omnia in ipso constant. Et ipse est caput corporis Ecclesiae, qui est principium, primogenitus ex mortuis: ut sit in omnibus ipse primatum tenens: quia in ipse complacuit omnem plenitudinem inhabitare; et per eum reconciliare omnia in ipsum, pacificans per sanguinem crucis ejus sive qua in terris, sive qua in caelis sunt, in Christo Jesu Domino nostro.

GRADUAL Psalms 71: 8, 11

Dominabitur a mari usque ad mare, et a flumine usque ad terminos orbis terrarum. Et adorabunt eum omnes reges terrae: omnes Gentes servient ei. Alleluja, alleluja. (Dan. 7: 14) Potestas ejus, potestas aeterna, qua non auferetur: et regnum ejus, quod non corrumpetur. Alleluja.

GOSPEL John 18: 33-37

In illo tempore: Dixit Pilatus ad Jesum: Tu es Rex Judaeorum? Respondit Jesus: A temetipso hoc dicis, an alii dixerunt tibi de me? Respondit Pilatus: Numquid ego Judaeus sum? Gens tua, et pontifices tradiderunt te mihi: quid fecisti? Respondit Jesus: Regnum meum non est de hoc mundo. Si ex hoc mundo esset regnum meum, ministri mei utique decertarent, ut non traderer Judaeis: nunc autem regnum meum non est hinc. Dicit itaque ei Pilatus: Ergo Rex es tu? Respondit Jesus: Tu dicis, quia Rex sum Ego. Ego in hoc natus sum, et ad hoc veni in mundum, ut testimonium perhibeam veritati: omnis qui est ex veritate, audit vocem Meam.

OFFERTORY Psalms 2: 8

Postula a me, et dabo tibi Gentes hereditatem tuam, et possessionem tuam terminos terrae.

SECRET

Hostiam tibi, Domine, humane conciliationis offerimus: praesta, quaesumus; ut quem sacrificiis; praesentibus immolamus, ipse cunctis Gentibus unitatis et pacis dona concedat, Jesus Christus, Filius tuus Dominus noster: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

PREFACE OF CHRIST THE KING

Vere dignum et justum est, aequum et salutare, nos tibi semper, et ubique gratias agere: Domine sancte, Pater omnipotens, aeterna Deus. Qui unigenitum Filium tuum Dominum nostrum Jesum Christum, Sacerdotem aeternum et universalem Regem, oleo exultationis unxisti: ut seipsum in ara crucis, hostiam immaculatam et pacificam, offerens, redemptionis humane sacramenta perageret: et suo subjectis imperio omnibus creaturis, aeternum et universalem regnum immensae tuae traderet Majestati: regnum veritatis et vitae; regnum sanctitatis et gratiae; regnum iustitiae, amoris et pacis. Et ideo cum Angelis et Archangelis, cum Thronis et Dominationibus, cumque omni militia caelestis exercitus, hymnum gloriae tuae canimus, sine fine dicentes:

COMMUNION Psalms 28: 10, 11

Sedebit Dominus Rex in aeternum: Dominus benedictet populo suo in pace.

POSTCOMMUNION

Immortalitatis alimoniam consecuti, quaesumus, Domine: ut, qui sub Christi Regis vexillis militare gloriamur, cum ipso, in caelesti sede, jungiter regnare possimus: Qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate Spiritus Sancti, Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum.

The Lamb that was slain is worthy to receive power and divinity and wisdom and strength and honor: to Him be glory and empire for ever and ever. (Ps. 71: 1) Give to the King, O God, Thy judgment, and to the King's Son Thy justice. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. The Lamb that was slain is worthy to receive power and divinity and wisdom and strength and honor: to Him be glory and empire for ever and ever.

Almighty and eternal God, Who hast wished to restore all things through Thy beloved Son, the King of the universe, graciously grant that all the families of the Gentiles separated by the wound of sin, may be subjected to His most loving dominion, Who with Thee lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren, we give thanks to God the Father, Who hath made us worthy to be partakers of the lot of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love. In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the remission of sins; Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for in Him were all things created in Heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominations, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him and in Him. And He is before all, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the Church. Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He may hold the primacy: because in Him it hath well pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell; and through Him to reconcile all things unto Himself, making peace through the blood of His cross, both as to the things that are on earth, and the things that are in Heaven, in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

He shall rule from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. And all kings of the earth shall adore Him: all nations shall serve Him. Alleluia, alleluia. (Dan. 7: 14) His power is an everlasting power that shall not be taken away: and His kingdom that shall not be destroyed. Alleluia.

At that time: Pilate said to Jesus: Art thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered: Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or have others told it thee of Me? Pilate answered: Am I a Jew? Thy own nation, and the chief priests, have delivered thee up to me: what hast thou done? Jesus answered: My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would certainly strive that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now My kingdom is not from hence. Pilate therefore said to him: Art thou a king then? Jesus answered: Thou sayest that I am a King. For this was I born, and for this came I into the world; that I should give testimony to the truth, everyone that is of the truth, heareth My voice.

Ask of Me, and I will give thee the Gentiles for thy inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for thy possession.

O Lord, we offer Thee this host for the reconciliation of humanity; grant, we beseech Thee, that Jesus Christ Thy Son our Lord, Whom we immolate in this sacrifice, will bestow on all Gentiles the gifts of unity and peace, Who with Thee lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, everlasting God Who didst anoint with the oil of gladness Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, eternal Priest and King of the universe: that, offering Himself as a stainless peace-offering on the altar of the cross, He might fulfill the pledges of man's redemption; and, having all creatures subject to His power, might deliver to Thy sublime 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 therefore with the Angels and Archangels, with the Thrones and Dominations, and with all the Thrones and Dominations, and with the Thrones of the heavenly host, we sing a hymn to Thy glory and unceasingly repeat:

The Lord shall sit King forever. The Lord will bless His people with peace.

Fed with this immortal nourishment, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that we who glory to fight under the standard of Christ the King, may forever reign with Him on the heavenly throne. Who with Thee lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.