



USC Caruso
Catholic Center

Solemnity of Christ the King

Family Prayer Service

Presider: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

All: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
(striking your breast, say:)
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
(Then continue with:)
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Opening Prayer:

Presider:

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

All: Amen

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly.

As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6 (1)

R. The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

A Reading from the first Letter from St. Paul to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia:

Mark 11:9, 10

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew:

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’ Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’ He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’ And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:
by Fr. Richard Sunwoo

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Each year, on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, we celebrate the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe! I want each of you to take a moment of what we are celebrating today and the depth of meaning in this title. We must make a commitment to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord AND as King—not just of our nation, or our world, BUT the entire universe! Prepare yourself to be bold!

Pope Pius XI began this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas Primas* to respond directly to growing secularism and hostility against the Church. It was a Jubilee Year that marked the 16th centenary of the Council of Nicea of which we have received the Nicene Creed. The wisdom of Pope Pius XI is clear now as it was in 1925! I encourage you to read the entire encyclical. It can be found by simple Google search. I will include some excerpts here for our continued formation of our own minds, souls, and families.

From the very first paragraph, Pope Pius XI reminds us: “In the first Encyclical Letter which We addressed at the beginning of Our Pontificate to the Bishops of the universal Church, We referred to the chief causes of the difficulties under which mankind was laboring. And We remember saying that these manifold evils in the world were due to the fact that the majority of men had thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law out of their lives; that these had no place either in private affairs or in politics; and we said further, that as long as individuals and states refused to submit to the rule of our Savior, there would be no really hopeful prospect of a lasting peace among nations. Men must look for the peace of Christ in the Kingdom of Christ; and that We promised to do as far as lay in Our power. In the Kingdom of Christ, that is, it seemed to Us that peace could not be more effectually restored nor fixed upon a firmer basis than through the restoration of the Empire of Our Lord.” Is this not a diagnosis of our current affairs? Have we grown so comfortable taking Jesus Christ out of our lives and our politics that we have ended up here? When we remove Jesus Christ from our homes, public life, professional life, and our politics, have we not contributed to the great evils of our world? Our Gospel today challenges our consciences as we witness Christ’s compassion and mercy in the proper exercise of his authority.

This is why our celebration of this Feast today is so important. Each of us as individuals and as families must recommit ourselves to the Kingship of Jesus Christ by offering to Him a privileged place in our lives! Let us abandon the battle between the various political parties and reclaim our identity and unity under the Kingship of Christ! It is in his mercy and love that we find our hope. Pope Pius XI continues in paragraph 18: “Thus the empire of our Redeemer embraces all men...Nor is there any difference in this matter between the individual and the family or the State; for all men, whether collectively or individually, are under the dominion of Christ. In him is the salvation of the individual, in him is the salvation of society. Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given to men whereby we must be saved. He is the author of happiness and true prosperity for every man and for every nation. For a nation is happy when its citizens are happy.

What else is a nation but a number of men living in concord? If, therefore, the rulers of nations wish to preserve their authority, to promote and increase the prosperity of their countries, they will not neglect the public duty of reverence and obedience to the rule of Christ. What We said at the beginning of Our Pontificate concerning the decline of public authority, and the lack of respect for the same, is equally true at the present day. "With God and Jesus Christ," we said, "excluded from political life, with authority derived not from God but from man, the very basis of that authority has been taken away, because the chief reason of the distinction between ruler and subject has been eliminated. The result is that human society is tottering to its fall, because it has no longer a secure and solid foundation."

Pope Pius XI continues with this observation in the beginning of paragraph 19: "When once men recognize, both in private and in public life, that Christ is King, society will at last receive the great blessings of real liberty, well-ordered discipline, peace and harmony." This must be one of our priorities and goals of our lives. St. Paul in our 2nd reading today reminds of this proper ordering of our lives beginning with Christ! So let us continue to pray for our nation and for all of our families and work towards this unity in Christ. Although there are many distinctives among us in the manner in which we live our lives, we must restore our unity in Jesus Christ who is our Lord and King of the Universe!

Nicene Creed:

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

Presider: With gratitude for the blessings we have received let us raise our hearts in prayer.

Intercessions:

1. That our Church and parish community may be a place where the poor are honored, the rejected are welcomed, and the sick and recovering are cared for:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

2. That Pope Francis, Archbishop Jose Gomez, Fr. Richard, and the bishops, priests, deacons, and ministers of our church may imitate the servanthood of Christ Jesus:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

3. That our newly elected president and legislators, judges, and government officials may serve our nation and state with wisdom and compassion:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

4. That those who provide for the poor, who console the troubled and the grieving, who care for the sick and the dying, may inherit the “kingdom” prepared for them:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

5. That we may see, in the faces of the homeless, the hungry, the sick, the abused, and the addicted, the face of Christ Jesus:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

6. That our deceased relatives and friends may share in the promise of Christ’s resurrection:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

Presider:

We praise you, O God, you are the Lord of all creation and Father of all nations. Hear the prayers we offer you in joyful hope as we await the coming of our Messiah and King, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Our Father:

Presider: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

Sign of Peace:

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Presider:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All:

And with your spirit.

Presider:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

Spiritual Communion:

All: I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

Closing Prayer:

Presider:

Having received the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in his heavenly Kingdom. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen