

## The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



We are blessed to experience the leadership of Christ, who reigns not through power or control, but through mercy and love. As we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King and prepare to enter Advent, we reflect on how His kingship has transformed our lives. Once ruled by self-will and the slavery of lust, we now live under the gentle authority of a God who heals and restores us.

This feast invites us to consider what it means to live as subjects of Christ the King—to let Him lead, guide, and shape our actions. For those of us in recovery, this means daily surrender. We no longer follow the tyranny of desire or the illusions of control. Instead, we follow the One who calls us to freedom through service.

Recovery literature reminds us that faith and action cannot be separated:

“Particularly was it imperative to work with others as he had worked with me. Faith without works was dead, he said. And how appallingly true for the alcoholic! For if an alcoholic failed to perfect and enlarge his spiritual life through work and self-sacrifice for others, he could not survive the certain trials and low spots ahead. If he did not work, he would surely drink again, and if he drank, he would surely die. Then faith would be dead indeed” (*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 14-15).

In recovery from lust, this means sharing our story, offering support to others, and being available when someone reaches out for help. Christ’s reign takes root in us when we serve without judgment, remembering how far His mercy has brought us.

This Sunday’s Gospel presents Christ as King from the cross (Luke 23:39-43):

*Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,*

*“Are you not the Christ?*

*Save yourself and us.”*

*The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,*

*“Have you no fear of God,*

*for you are subject to the same condemnation?*

*And indeed, we have been condemned justly,*

*for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,*

*but this man has done nothing criminal.”*

*Then he said,*

*“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”*

*He replied to him,*

*“Amen, I say to you,*

*today you will be with me in Paradise.”*

This moment captures the mystery of redemption: even in His suffering, Jesus brings salvation. The repentant thief does not justify his actions or make excuses—he simply asks to be remembered. In that humble plea, he finds peace.

We, too, approach God in our brokenness, asking Him to remember us, to restore us, and to make us clean. Every day, we have the chance to begin again—to let go of shame and allow Christ’s mercy to lead.

As we serve others, we share the same mercy that saved us. Recovery is a school of discipleship: we learn to love as Christ loves, to forgive as He forgives, and to trust as He trusted the Father. Our King does not demand perfection; He asks for our willingness to follow.

Let us live as citizens of His Kingdom—men and women who reflect His light in dark places and carry the good news of freedom to others still trapped in bondage.

## Reflection Questions

- How does surrendering to Christ’s leadership bring freedom and peace to your recovery?
- In what ways has service to others strengthened your faith and kept you spiritually alive?
- What does the prayer “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom” mean to you in your daily walk?

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### **Sunday Mass Readings this Week**

**First Reading:** 2 Samuel 5:1-3

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5

**Second Reading:** Colossians 1:12-20

**Gospel:** Luke 23:35-43