

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

*November 20, 2022 by Dcn. Julio A. Lara*

I came home one day when my son was five years old, and I noticed that he was really upset. I asked him why he was so upset, he shared that he had an argument with his older sister. I asked what the argument was about, and he stated that he was really upset because his sister called him a nuisance. Since he was five years old and the term was not used frequently around the house, I asked him; do you know what it means to be a nuisance? He looked at me seriously and said NO but I DON'T LIKE IT.

In our Catholic faith I have encountered similar situations, words that I take for granted, words that I assume I know the meaning of and words that even though I don't know what they are, they become part of my routine, because it is the way it is said or done. Today the Church celebrates **“The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe”** and even though you have probably heard it many times, I invite you to join me in making that title your own. I will break down the title in one of the ways that it speaks to me, and I hope that it does the same to you.

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Our mass can be described in many terms, eucharist, sacrifice, feast, wedding feast to name a few. Mass should be a celebration, it is an event of gratitude, joy, and feasting. If we think of the celebration as having levels or ranks, solemnity is the highest level of celebration or feasting that the Church recognizes. At a solemnity we bring our best foot forward, we bring out our best garments, we celebrate like there is not tomorrow. “The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe” is a special celebration because among other things it marks the end in our liturgical year. We start the transition from ordinary time to the time of advent, it marks the end of another chapter, another year. Our vestments go from green to white because of the great feast and the start of the new year is the transition to purple for advent.

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Our Lord implies a communal aspect, like the Our Father, it states that I am not alone, that I am part of a community, that I am in a common union with others. Realizing that it is Our, not my Lord tells me that I was created to share, I was created to give. To share and give my time, talent, treasures, everything that I have been given, to make it ours. If I recognize and see God as Lord, I am recognizing that he is the authority, that he has power, that he governs, that he is the master. When I call God Our Lord, I am acknowledging that he is our ruler.

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Jesus means he saves; the Lord is salvation and Christ means to be anointed or the Messiah. In the first reading today, David is anointed king, he was a type of Christ, he was a type of messiah for the people of Israel, and throughout salvation history we learn of other anointed, other Christs, other messiahs. But Jesus is the ultimate Christ, he is the beginning and the end, he is true salvation.

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We tend to look at kings as those in power, ruling, governing, and just ordering, but a king is much more than that. A king is a true server, a king is a living testimony of bravery, loyalty, leadership, and love for his people. King David fell into temptation and sin, when he was not serving as king, when he was not leading or serving his people. When we are baptized, we are baptized into Christ kingship, we are anointed as collaborators in his salvific mission, we are kingly in that we are to serve, to be loyal, to lead and to love others.

**In the gospel reading**, the earthly rulers and those in authority, made fun of Jesus, they laughed at him; *he saved others let him save himself... if he is the King of the Jews, he should save himself... isn't he the Christ, then he should be able to save himself...* They didn't realize that when Jesus seemed to be the weakest, the most vulnerable, at his lowest moment, he was being a true **Jesus** (savior), **Christ** (anointed) and **King** (serving). Jesus is the king of the universe because as the second reading tells us, he is the image of the invisible God, everything was created in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible through him and for him, in him all things hold together. Not only is he the king of the visible, the earthly, the material, but he is the king of the invisible, the spiritual, the celestial. Because he is the King of the Universe, Saint Paul says it best: ... at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...

**The question becomes:** Is he your **Lord**? Is he, our Lord? Is he your **Messiah**? Is he, our messiah? Is he the **King** of your universe? Is he the king of our universe?

**The psalmist states:** Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord... but why? Because today is “**The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.**” Today we celebrate, we feast together as a community, in a common union, that the savior, the anointed one, the messiah is our ruler, our authority and our King.

Jesus told the good thief in the cross “...today you will be with me in Paradise” **well today, at this Mass in the Eucharist... you will be with him in paradise.**