

## THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

November 24, 2019

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

2 Samuel 5:1-3 † Colossians 1:12-20 † Luke 23: 35-43



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### A Very Different Kind of King

In today's Gospel, the crucifixion scene is used to exemplify *Christ the King of the Universe*. It reminds us that Christ is a very different kind of king: his throne is the cross; his crown, a crown of thorns.

Paul's Letter to the Corinthians creates a litany that captures images of Christ's kingship:

- "Christ is the image of the invisible God" acclaims the divine origin in Christ;
- "the firstborn of all creation" places Christ over the entire created world;
- "head of the body, the Church" underscores the intimacy and interrelationship that exists between Christ and all those connected through faith and baptism.

Today the world makes much of power. It motivates many of our relationships. From the time we are children, right through our youthful days, until we grow as seniors, life is about taking control. Not realizing it, we manipulate others and influence them in subtle ways. We want to have our say; we want others to notice us, to follow us, to listen to us. However, all through the Gospels and in today's readings, Jesus reveals to us that his values are different, and today's feast emphasizes a totally different lifestyle—one that serves rather than dominates.

Today's style of leadership seems to bully, humiliate, and use power to serve oneself. Every day we see money and power used to build up the user, not the common person.

For the sake of the people, Jesus willingly endured humiliation and death. Nailed to the cross, his outstretched arms embraced people from every corner of the world. He exercised authority as he hung dying on the cross, which forevermore will be seen as his glorious throne.

In the last words of the Gospel, words with which the liturgical year is brought to completion, he opens the gates of heaven to the repentant sinner. "This day you will be with me in paradise." We all long to hear these words that are charged with power when spoken by the one who is King over all. May we follow the lifestyle and the words of Jesus as we walk the Earth today.