



Homily for  
THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING  
OF THE UNIVERSE  
19/20 November, 2016

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**Deacon Jim's homily follows...**

Our Lord Jesus Christ the King...Cycle C...November 20, 2016  
Holy Spirit Parish...Sacred Heart Church...4:00 Mass  
Deacon Jim Thill

- Today's feast of Christ the King can certainly cause us to think of the pomp and pageantry associated with a king...with Christ our King.
  - In my mind I see a celebratory procession around the church... and around the block...with that large canopy some of us can remember from years ago.
  - equally so...this feast could and should impress upon our minds... and even more so on our hearts...the love this King has for us.
- Jesus Christ is the King...
  - not just a king...but THE KING.
  - The Book of Revelation identifies Him as the King of Kings... and Lord of Lords.
- King and Lord...should imply for us...that He is something...and He does something.
- First though...this weekend in the context of the Church year...
  - this is the last weekend of the Church year.
  - next weekend is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent...the beginning of a new church year... it is our Church's New Years Day.
  - so we are now celebrating the Church's New Years Eve.
  - there could not be a better way to celebrate the Church's New Years Eve then to celebrate Christ the King... to celebrate Jesus...the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
  - there could not be a better way to prepare to enter a new year.
- Hear the message in the Scriptures for today...and let it touch our hearts...our minds...

let it impact our lives...let us enter them by living the implications of these scriptures.

**READING 1** (2 Samuel 5:1-3)

- all the tribes of Israel came to David... and said:
  - you are one of us...you successfully led us in the past...
  - the Lord said to you, "You shall shepherd my people"...
- and the elders came to him...
  - and David made an agreement with them...entered a covenant with them...
  - and they anointed David King of Israel.
- how does this first reading apply to us today?...**it is more than a history lesson**.
- David is a prefiguration...a glimpse...of what's to come.
  - David is a prefiguration...a glimpse...of the greatest king of all time...
  - the greatest king ever...Jesus Christ the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- In our 2<sup>nd</sup> reading St. Paul will list some of the attributes of this King Jesus.

**READING 2** (Colossians 1:12-20)

- we heard it proclaimed...hear it again...
  - He is...
    - the image of the invisible God...when we see Him we see God...
    - the first born of all creation...has always existed...
    - all things...visible or invisible...were created in Him, through Him and for Him...
    - He is before all things...and in Him all things hold together...
    - He is the head of the body...the Church...
    - He is the first born from the dead...
    - He is preeminent...He is first...He is above all...He is the greater...
    - all fullness is in Him...
    - in Him all things are reconciled to the Father...He is the reconciler...
    - in Him peace is made by the blood of His cross...He is peacemaker.
  - if David is a prefiguration...and he is...this Jesus is no David...
    - He is far greater...all perfect...all glorious...all powerful...all magnificent...and all loving.

- remember:
  - King and Lord...should imply for us...that He is something...
    - and He does something.
  - in the first and second reading we see the Jesus who is something...
    - we see who Jesus is.
  - in the Gospel...the veil of revelation is drawn back for us...
    - and we see Jesus does something...we see Jesus loves.

**GOSPEL** (Luke 23:35-43)

- in my early teens...experiencing what was then called puppy love...
  - I would pick a flower and pull the petals off with the words...

“she loves me, she loves me not.”

-I only had to arrive at “she loves me not” once to learn  
if you count the pedals and started right  
you always ended up with “she loves me.”

-from that point on they all loved me.

-with Jesus we do not have to count petals...He always loves us.

-Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote 40 some love sonnets

to her husband Robert Browning.

-he was so impressed with them he encouraged her to publish them...and she did.

-from one of those sonnets we get the words,

“How do I love you? Let me count the ways.”

-it is good to stop...think...and count the way that Jesus loves us.

-driving in the car...thinking about this homily...and of course with the radio on...

I heard these words in a song...“She loves me like Jesus does.”

-in today’s Gospel we come face to face...

with how Jesus does love us... face to face with the greatest act of love for all time.

-let’s take a look at today’s Gospel...let’s count some of the ways Jesus loves us.

-when they challenged Jesus with, “If you are the King of the Jews save yourself”...

and He did not come down from the cross to show the...this used to frustrate me.

-I used to think, “Why did you not come down from the cross and show them?”

-I used to think, “I’m out here busting my back to help people experience you...

and experience your love...you could have helped you know.”

-but I have come to realize if He had come down from the cross...

-they would have simply said, “He wasn’t fastened their well enough,  
put Him back up there right and then see if can get down.”

-you see...with faith no amount of evidence is necessary...

without faith no amount of evidence will suffice.

-Jesus the King and the Old Testament kings:

-the good Old Testament kings...and there were only a few...

did much for their people...two come to mind.

-they had standing armies to keep their people secure...safe.

-they stored grain so that in times of shortage the people could eat.

(simply...a good king kept his subjects safe and fed)

-how does Jesus the King of Kings and Lord of Lords...keep us safe and feed us?...  
how does Jesus love us?

-let’s count the ways Jesus loves us in just this Gospel:

-by staying on the cross He humbled Himself...for us.

-by dyeing on that cross He saved us...salvation.

-in forgiving the good thief...he shows us His forgiveness for us.



- in His mercy...He reveals His mercy for us.
- in the act of Calvary He shows us His care for us and His love for us.
- and in this Mass...a memorial of Calvary...of His suffering...  
He feeds us...teaches us...equips us...strengthens us for our life of love.

**CLOSE**

- Today's feast of Christ the King can certainly cause us to think  
of the pomp and pageantry associated with a king...with Christ our King.
  - in my mind I see a celebratory procession around the church...  
and around the block...with the large canopy some of us can remember from  
years ago.
  - equally so...this feast could and should impress upon our minds...  
and even more so on our hearts...the love this King has for us.
- a message for us today is...
  - Jesus is our Christ the King  
and  
Jesus loves us...we can count the ways.
- our challenge is to love Him in return...How will we do that?