

Solemnity of Christ the King

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A King Enthroned in Hearts

If we conduct an online search for the greatest king ever in history, the name, *Alexander the Great* comes up. History tells us that he conquered and ruled the largest empire on the planet at that time; from Greece to northwestern India. His final day was a remarkable one because of the great life lessons that he wanted to have on display at his funeral. His last wishes to his Generals were noteworthy. The King of Macedonia said: “I want my physicians to carry my coffin because people should realize that no doctor can cure anyone. They are helpless in the face of death.”

For his second wish, the king wanted his wealth to be put on display along the path to his grave. “I spent all my life earning riches but cannot take anything with me. Let people know that wealth is nothing but dust.”

Finally, Alexander said: “My third and last wish is for both my hands to hang out of the coffin for all to know that I came empty-handed into this world, and I leave empty-handed.”

This was the life of a glorious and mighty king, Alexander the Great. But we have a King who is eternal, and the ruler of the whole universe: who placed His throne in His beloved ones’ hearts.

Our King’s edict to everyone is to become one in heart with Him: “Abide in me, as I abide in you” (John 15:4). He is the mightiest King who was born in a humble manger; born not to conquer the world but to conquer the hearts of all through loving, forgiving, and self-sacrificing. He established His Kingdom through Love. He is a King who cried for his people; a King who prepared food for His followers; a King who wished to dwell among His people forever; and the only King who taught the necessity of loving God



with one's whole heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love all fellow human beings as one self. This is the greatest commandment of His Kingdom. He is a King who literally practiced this greatest commandment of love by becoming a servant to His disciples, who washed their feet, and died for every single citizen of His Kingdom. Jesus is the King of our hearts and the centre of our lives.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer every day, we ask God our Father to establish His Kingdom in us by praying: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done." When we ask Jesus to be the King of our life, and when we experience Jesus' presence in us, we are in His Kingdom. When we pray that the Will of the Lord be done in us, we surrender ourselves to Jesus, the King, so that He may be active and present in every moment of our life; in whatever we think, say, and do. When the Kingdom of God is truly in us and when Jesus rules our hearts, we become carriers of His attributes and His Divine qualities: like living Tabernacles. We become a reflection of Christ in the world.

Saint Hildegard of Bingen said: "Heaven on earth is wherever people are filled with love for God, for their fellow men, and for themselves." So, whenever we are filled with love for God and our fellow brothers and sisters, the King of our hearts, Jesus, rules in all His glory and splendour within our hearts.

In Hebrews (13:8), the Word of God says: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

Let us rejoice in our Lord Jesus, who is King forever.