

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."

Homily Resources and Petitions for the

Feast of Christ the King, Cycle B (25 November 2018)

Homily Helps

† **Scripture passages to note:**

Daniel 7

The one like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship.

Psalm 93

The LORD is king; he is robed in majesty.

Revelation 1

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, " says the Lord God, "the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty."

John 18

Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world... For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth."

† **Comment for the day:**

Once, during a stewardship campaign in a church I have served, Josh, a 10-year-old boy gave a memorable testimony. He said that, every month, when he gets a little bit of money from his parents, he would divide most of it between his home parish and a local charity. When asked about why he didn't act like a typical child of his age who would spend all of it on himself, Josh responded: "I do that," he said, "because it makes me feel like I am a king." In those words, the child has captured the essential truth: that authentic greatness, kingship, and dominion have to do with the largeness of one's vision, depth of one's personal commitment, and generosity.

In today's Gospel Jesus says that he does not belong to this world. This must not be interpreted in a way that would negate the core Christian truth about the incarnation. Furthermore, the phrase, should not be interpreted by arguing that the Church as the Body of Christ must stay away from speaking and responding to the contemporary social, economic or environmental issues. The truth is that the sphere of God's grace and judgement extends to all corners of the world. The passage from the Book of Revelation reminds us God is found not only in the past but also in the present and in the future that is yet to come.

It might be helpful for fellow Catholics to hear about the connection between Christ the King, the Eucharist and the call to safeguard our common home. The 13th century Franciscan mystic, Saint Angela of Foligno, would cry out, whenever a priest would lift up a consecrated host at the Mass: "the whole world is pregnant with God!" The simple elements of bread and wine represent not only the fruit of our human work, our sacrifices, struggles, dreams and hope but also all the elements of God's creation –animals, plants, mountains and seas, air, soils, even distant galaxies.

When we receive the Holy Communion, our "Amen" is an affirmation of our profound relationship with the rest of creation. It also expressed one's personal commitment to protect our common home and to uphold the integrity of God's creation. In as much as our "Amen" is real, we exercise dominion over the rest of creation, that is, we ward it off against the forces of chaos and foster within God's creation a fuller realization of its hidden potential that reflects the splendor of God's goodness, truth and beauty. As we give of our time, talent and treasure in the service of justice, peace and care for creation, and as we participate in the Eucharistic celebration, we become brothers and sisters/disciples of Christ the King/ the Alfa and the Omega – the Cosmic Christ.

† **Passages from Laudato Si' to note:**

In the Eucharist, fullness is already achieved; it is the living center of the universe, the overflowing core of love and of inexhaustible life. Joined to the incarnate Son, present in the Eucharist, the whole cosmos gives thanks to God. Indeed, the Eucharist is itself an act of cosmic love... The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation... In the bread of the

Eucharist, “creation is projected towards divinization, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator himself”. Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation. (#236)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the Eucharist may become a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, we pray to the Lord.....

Option 2: In gratitude for ancient saints, theologians and for Pope Francis who all teach us how justice for the poor and care for God’s creation belong to the core of our Christian faith, we pray to the Lord....

Further Resources

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