



Homily Helps and Petitions for the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe (November 23, 2025)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

2 Samuel: All the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and said: "Here we are, your bone and flesh."

Psalms 122: Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. / To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

Colossians 1: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created 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 beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven.

Luke 23: "Jesus, remember me when you enter upon your reign." And Jesus replied, "I assure you: this day you will be with me in paradise."

† Comments for the Day:

This feast is only 100 years old. It was established in 1925 because Pope Pius XI felt that modern Christians needed a reminder of the primacy of Christ in all things. The reading from Colossians gives us the proper context for understanding this. All things in heaven and earth were created in him; nothing can continue in being without him; absolute fullness is his, and it is this that makes possible the reconciliation of even the most fierce of earthly enemies.

This cosmic reign of love is completely different from the kingships and governments we are familiar with. Among other differences, it is radically inclusive and boundaryless. Christ's love and care are not limited to human beings, but flow out through every crack and cranny of creation. Christ seeks the flourishing of all beings, without exception. "The tribes of the Lord" include the tribes of wolves, crickets, catfish, sawgrass, puffballs, and all the other creatures, as well as the wonderfully diverse tribes of human beings. Jesus is "bone and flesh" with all creatures, human and otherwise; and for this reason all are being gathered in and reconciled in Christ.

The crowds and the soldiers who watched Jesus be crucified thought calling him a “king” was a joke. He did not even defend himself against the violent power of the earthly sovereigns. Jesus, however, knew the secret of paradise, namely, that love is the only true joy. When we join him in actively extending our love and care to all creatures without exception, we too may at times appear to be crushed by worldly power. In reality, though, on that day we will be with him in paradise.

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

Creation is of the order of love. God’s love is the fundamental moving force in all created things: “For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made; for you would not have made anything if you had hated it” (Wis 11:24). Every creature is thus the object of the Father’s tenderness, who gives it its place in the world. Even the fleeting life of the least of beings is the object of his love, and in its few seconds of existence, God enfolds it with his affection. (77)

The ultimate destiny of the universe is in the fullness of God, which has already been attained by the risen Christ, the measure of the maturity of all things. Here we can add yet another argument for rejecting every tyrannical and irresponsible domination of human beings over other creatures. The ultimate purpose of other creatures is not to be found in us. Rather, all creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things. Human beings, endowed with intelligence and love, and drawn by the fullness of Christ, are called to lead all creatures back to their Creator. (83)

Various convictions of our faith, developed at the beginning of this Encyclical can help us to enrich the meaning of this [ecological] conversion. These include the awareness that each creature reflects something of God and has a message to convey to us, and the security that Christ has taken unto himself this material world and now, risen, is intimately present to each being, surrounding it with his affection and penetrating it with his light. (221)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That the boundaryless love of Christ may reign in the hearts of all Christians, let us pray to the Lord ...

Option 2: That we may learn how to expand our loving care beyond those of our own tribe to include diverse peoples and diverse species, let us pray to the Lord ...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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