

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King – Cycle A

Sunday or Feast Day date: November 22-23, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

The title of this feast, Christ the King, would seem to indicate that the Church ends the liturgical year with a sense of triumph and glory. The Church proclaims the rule of Christ week after week, so it is fitting to take this Sunday to offer this acclaim. However, looking closely at the readings would indicate something different. The readings do not proclaim Jesus as a king of glory. Rather, the Scriptures use the image of shepherd and flocks. Ezekiel says that the times may not be the best – could this not mirror the signs of the times of our present day? – yet, the king imitates the shepherd who seeks out and finds the strays; binding up the wounded; healing those who are in need of healing. The Gospel will ask of us all how much of a shepherd each of us yet has to become?

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. This is the end of the liturgical year. What was the highpoint of the liturgical year for you and why? How does that memory affect you today?
2. Who is Christ the King for you? How much of a shepherd do you still need to become?

Some Other Considerations As You Prepare...

1. A sample penitential rite: “*Lord Jesus, you share with us your kingdom of truth and life; Lord, have mercy; Christ Jesus, you share with us a kingdom of holiness and grace; Christ, have mercy; Lord Jesus, you share with us a kingdom of justice, love and peace, Lord, have mercy*”;

As you or the deacon do these invocation, consider pausing after each *Lord Jesus...* and between each invocation. These brief pauses, catch the attention of the Assembly and allow you to shape the invocations to Christ Jesus in a prayerful manner and not simple as a list of titles to Jesus.

2. The first Opening Prayer option is recommended.
3. The Preface of Christ the King is prescribed.
4. A sample introduction to the Lords Prayer might be: “*Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace, as Jesus taught us*”...
5. Solemn Blessing Ordinary Time III

LOOKING AHEAD...

1. Thanksgiving is this Thursday. There are Mass propers for Thanksgiving Day in the US *Sacramentary*. The *Lectionary* offers a number of reading options as well.
2. Next weekend is the First Sunday of Advent.
3. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a Holyday of Obligation.
4. The *Proclamation of the Birth of Christ* is a sung text taken from the entry for December 25 in the ancient Martyrology, and can be sung at the beginning of the Midnight Mass. Is you would like information or a copy, contact the Office of Worship.
5. The Parish Advent Penance Service needs to be ready for the upcoming season.

SAMPLE INTERCESSORIES FOR CHRIST THE KING

Priest: For the sake of the Church and the life of the world, we offer our prayers...

Deacon (or other reader if there is no deacon):

1. For the Church to be a witness of truth, freedom, justice and peace to all in the world, we pray to the Lord...
2. For all those who lead the nations of earth; may our leaders be men and women of integrity who seek to serve for the common good, we pray to the Lord...
3. For our American Bishops' *Catholic Campaign for Human Development*; may those who are served by this effort be blessed into a new hope for living, we pray to the Lord...
4. For those who seek the consolation of God in their suffering; for help and healing to those who live in chronic pain, we pray to the Lord...
5. For all of our beloved dead to be gathered into the kingdom of the Savior, we pray to the Lord...
6. In peace, and in silence, we offer our other prayers of need...

[*pause; the presider alone concludes*]

Priest: O source of life and creative beauty,
hear your people as we pray.
Grant our needs and guide us day by day
in faithfulness to your Divine love,
through Jesus Christ, our Shepherd King and Lord,
forever and ever.
Amen.