



EWTN

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CHRIST THE KING PRAYERS & MEDITATIONS





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Introduction

In the 1920s, Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King in response to a growing trend toward secularization, communism, and atheism.

In the encyclical *Quas Primas*, which established this feast day, the Pope wrote that the many evils in the world were “due to the fact that the majority of men had thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law out of their lives.” Instead of people recognizing Jesus as King of their lives, many had turned to secular institutions and pleasures.

Pope Pius XI understood that Jesus is rightfully King and He should be preeminent in every aspect of our lives. He said,

It has long been a common custom to give to Christ the metaphorical title of “King,” because of the high degree of perfection whereby he excels all creatures. So he is said to reign “in the hearts of men,” both by reason of the keenness of his intellect and the extent of his knowledge, and also because he is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind. He reigns, too, in the wills of men, for in him the human will was perfectly and entirely obedient to the Holy Will of God, and further by his grace and inspiration he so subjects our free-will as to incite us to the most noble endeavors.

As we recognize Jesus as the King of the Universe, we should also remember that His Kingship is one of great love for mankind. “But in what does this ‘power’ of Jesus Christ the King consist?” asked Pope Benedict XVI. “It is not the power of the kings. ... It is the power of Love that can draw good from evil, that can melt a hardened heart, bring peace amid the harshest conflict, and kindle hope in the thickest darkness.”

May the following Scripture verses and reflections bring you closer to our King, Jesus Christ.



Christ the King Prayers and Meditations

“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called
‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom,
to establish it, and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”
- Isaiah 9:6–7

Dear Jesus, even centuries before your Birth, the prophets told us about you. How your people must have longed for you to come!

We know that, when you came to us an Infant, you traded the glory of Heaven for the pains and anxieties of earth. You did this out of love for us, love for me. During this life, as in the next, I want you to be King of my heart. Amen.



Christ the King Prayers and Meditations

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.’”

- Matthew 2:1-2

Dear Jesus, the Wise Men traveled a great distance to see you. Because of the Star in the night sky, the Magi understood that you would be very special. They sought you out, and finding a Baby, a Savior, a King, they gave you gifts and worshiped you.

In my daily life, help me to imitate the Wise Men, with a heart filled with love, obedience, generosity, and praise. Amen.



“From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

- Matthew 4:17

Dear Jesus, as you began your public ministry, you proclaimed your kingdom. Because of the scriptural prophecies, many of your people were expecting an earthly king, much like David, to deliver them. However, your kingdom is not of this world, but of Heaven, and your deliverance is from sin, death, and the devil.

We often become laden with the anxieties of life. However, when we focus on you and your Kingdom, life takes on a different meaning. Lord, help me turn my focus to Heaven, so that I might live for You. Amen.



Christ the King Prayers and Meditations

“Jesus answered, ‘My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world.’ Pilate said to him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice.’ Pilate said to him, ‘What is truth?’”

- John 18:36-38

Dear Jesus, in your words to Pilate, you said that you were born to be King and to witness to Truth. When we realize that you are the essence of Truth, life becomes clear. You are “the way, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

I ask that you help me to see the world through your perspective, the perspective of Truth. May my thoughts and my actions always reflect the Truth that is found in the Gospel. Amen.



Christ the King Prayers and Meditations

“And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, ‘This is Jesus the King of the Jews.’”

- Matthew 27:37

Dear Jesus, even as you suffered for three hours on the Cross, as you looked at the anguish of your Blessed Mother, as you said “Father, forgive them,” the words above you declared that you were King.

Lord, I ask that, as I suffer or face any difficulties, I remember how you, the King of the Universe, suffered for us on the Cross. Help me to be patient through trials – and loving toward those who do harm to me. I ask that you help me to face suffering the way that you did. Amen.



Christ the King Prayers and Meditations

“... being found in human form [Jesus] humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

- Philippians 2:8-11

Dear Jesus, your Holy Name is often blasphemed. Many others do not realize that they are taking your Name in vain. Yet, it wounds you to hear the Name that wrought our salvation used in this way.

While I cannot change other people, I ask that you help me to uphold your Holy Name and proclaim it to everyone I meet. May I continually confess that you are Lord, Savior, and King, looking forward to the day when I can live with you in the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.



Novena to Christ the King

To be prayed on nine consecutive days

Almighty and merciful God, you break the power of evil and make all things new in your Son Jesus Christ, the King of the universe. May all in heaven and earth acclaim your glory and never cease to praise you.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. . .[Collect, Solemnity of Christ the King]

Pray

One Our Father . . . , Hail Mary . . . , and Glory Be . . .

Final Prayer

O Lord our God, You alone are the Most Holy King and Ruler of all nations.

We pray to You, Lord, in the great expectation of receiving from You, O Divine King, mercy, peace, justice and all good things.

Protect, O Lord our King, our families and the land of our birth.

Guard us we pray Most Faithful One.

Protect us from our enemies and from Your Just Judgment.

Forgive us, O Sovereign King, our sins against you.

Jesus, You are a King of Mercy.

We have deserved Your Just Judgment.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.

We trust in Your Great Mercy.

O most awe-inspiring King, we bow before You and pray;

May Your Reign, Your Kingdom, be recognized on earth.

Amen.

