

**Liturgy of the Word with Children**  
**Solemnity of Christ the King, Year B**  
**24 November 2024**  
**John 18:33-37**

### **Catechist Background**

Before entering into Advent, the final Sunday of the liturgical year is always the celebration of Christ the King. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus has been handed over to the Roman authorities by Jewish leaders, as the Jewish leaders did not have the power to carry out capital punishment (to put someone to death). Pilate, as the representative of the Roman Empire, was reluctant to get involved in petty religious affairs, but Jesus stood before him accused by his detractors of treason, saying Jesus claimed to be the King of the Jews. This was the equivalent of declaring the revolutionary overthrow of the Roman Emperor, punishable by death, and so Pilate couldn't ignore this. Jesus demonstrated that the terms of his 'Kingdom' were not to be understood in the usual political sense. His Kingdom does not have boundaries, but is found in the hearts of all who try sincerely to live out the Truth of God's Love.

The liturgical colour today is white (which means "Christ is here").

### **Setting the Scene**

For the activity described below you will need one large map for the whole group to see and a paper flag for each child to decorate; these can be made by attaching a piece of paper to a straw or a pencil. You will also need colouring materials.

### **We Say Sorry**

Leader: You are our King, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You are our Saviour, Christ have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You call us to you every day, Lord have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Gloria**

### **We Pray (1)**

God, may all things in this world and in heaven praise you for your goodness and love. Amen.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel:** John 18:33-37

### **Reflecting on the Gospel Reading with Children**

- Why was it a crime to claim that Jesus or anybody else was the King of the Jews?
- Hold up a map of the world so that the children can see it.
  - Show them where Jerusalem is and the tiny area that the Jews lived in 2000 years ago.
  - Point out where we live (the UK) and where King Charles is the King.
  - Point out other countries which they might know and their (earthly) rulers.
- Where is Jesus' Kingdom? Can you point to it on the map?

## Response

- Some children may know that flags are the symbol of a country and that the flags themselves may contain symbols. For instance, the Union Jack combines the Cross of St. George (England) with the Cross of St. Andrew (Scotland), and the Cross of St. Patrick (Ireland); the American flag has one star for each state and one stripe for each of the original states.
- Give each child a flag to decorate for Christ's Kingdom.
- If time and space permits, have a little 'parade' around the children's liturgy space, waving the flags joyfully in proclamation of Christ's Kingdom.

## We Believe

Relating the Creed to what you have shared with the children, ask these questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father, creator of everything we can see and the things we can't see?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the King of all there is?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who calls us to live God's Kingdom?

## We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying: 'You took the time even to answer Pilate, and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for the Pope and the bishops, that they live their lives in the spirit of the Kingdom of God. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all kings, queens, presidents and prime ministers in this world, that they may know that Jesus Christ is the true ruler of all things. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people unjustly accused of crimes which they did not commit, that they find the strength and courage to sustain them. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all those who have died in the last year, that they may enjoy eternity with God. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, we know that you love us. Help us in our lives to live the way you command. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

