

NO CCE Nov. 24 – 30 for the Thanksgiving break.

Congratulations to the children making their First Communion today. May this be the first of many encounters with the Lord in the Eucharist!

Breaking Open the Word for Families for The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe By Ginger Herrington



Reading 1: *The Lord said to David: you will shepherd My people; and they anointed him king of Israel.* David was a shepherd boy, the youngest son of Jesse, whom the prophet Samuel was sent to anoint as king of Israel. David served King Saul, soothed him with music, went to war on his behalf, and refused to harm him, even though Saul hunted him down and wanted to kill him. When Saul was killed, the tribes of Israel came to David and anointed him as their king. Let's consider Jesus, our Good Shepherd, who soothes our soul with His love; who went to war with sin and death and emerged victorious from the grave; and who is our Messiah (Greek for *anointed one*). See how wonderful our God is! The real events of the past foretold real events yet to come in the future. David foreshadowed Jesus; Jesus fulfills all that was promised in David; ***and it all really happened.*** God is the very best storyteller of all time because His story is History.

Reading 2: *He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us into His Kingdom.* Paul's beautiful hymn of adoration sings of the glory of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. He lauds Him as the image of the invisible God. No one has seen God and lived, but Jesus shows us the Father: "He who has seen Me has seen the Father." Paul goes on: "In Him all things were created", which became part of our Nicene Creed ("through Him all things were made"). Paul calls Him the "head of the Body, the Church," who "made peace by the Blood of His Cross... whether those on Earth or those in Heaven," which is also part of our Nicene Creed ("He will judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end.") We, the Body of Christ, are members of His Kingdom; we do His Will by performing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. CCE students have received a Discipleship Project which prompts them to do these Works of Mercy. Please help them to be good disciples of Jesus. You can access the Discipleship Project on the parish website www.st-mm.com/for-catechists-only and click on the links for the Discipleship Project.

Gospel: *Jesus' mercy knows no bounds, as He promised the good thief from the cross: "Today, you will be with Me in Paradise."* Jesus freely forgave Dismas of his sins, even in the midst of the extremity of His Passion. When we pray for the dead, let us pray that, if they are in Purgatory, they will hear those beautiful words of Jesus addressed to them: "Today, you will be with Me in Paradise." Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, spoke then from His throne of the Cross. Now He speaks to us from His throne in Heaven by means of His Church, in Word and sacrament, through Sacred Scripture, and the dogmas and doctrines defined by the Magisterium of the Church. Let us listen carefully to His words in Scripture, and let's cooperate with the graces He pours out to us in the sacraments. At the end of our lives here on Earth, may we hear those beautiful words: "Today, you will be with Me in Paradise."



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