

# **The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

**November 23, 2025**

**Shepherd my people.**

**First born of all creation.**

**Be in paradise.**

**-rvb.**

**Reading 1**

**2 Samuel 5:1-3**

In those days, all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and said:

"Here we are, your bone and your flesh.

In days past, when Saul was our king,

it was you who led the Israelites out and brought them back.

And the LORD said to you,

**'You shall shepherd my people Israel**

**and shall be commander of Israel.'"**

When all the elders of Israel came to David in Hebron,

King David made an agreement with them there before the LORD,

and they anointed him king of Israel.

**A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.**

In this reading from 2 Samuel, we focus on David's anointing as King of Israel. This passage relates, how after Ishbaal's death, the tribes gather around David to plead his kingship based on his blood line, his past military leadership, and the divine prediction of his reign. The elders gather, agree to a covenant, and anoint David king over

**united Israel. David's dreams are now fulfilled. God has anointed him as King of Israel.**

**As a backdrop to David's life prior to chapter 5, the author reflects on the forty years of David's reign. There were moments when he fell from grace and God's favor. There were times when he reached the heights of greatness, leadership, and fidelity to the covenant that God had made with Israel. David pledges to support, defend, and protect the rights of his covenant partners. As king, David rules over Judah, and he aspires to rule over Israel as well. In this reading, David comes into his own. It is a time of national gladness and a celebration of coronation. Jerusalem will become the capital. The genius of David is that he unites the North and the South. Jerusalem has become the centerpiece of faith and worship. David acknowledges he is committed to leadership, solidarity, and responsibility. He is the ideal king as expressed in psalm 101. When David tries to control God, he abandons the covenant. When he surrenders to God as Lord and King, he is truly blessed by God and the kingdom flourishes.**

**For catechesis purposes in collaborating with high school students and adults, these following leadership lessons from David stand out as enduring principles that connect powerfully with those who want to lead effectively, no matter what the setting is. David's story reminds us of a**

model worth following for anyone looking to guide others with courage, integrity, and to be a model, mentor, motivator, and messenger of faith, hope, and love.

### **1. Demonstrates trust in a power greater than himself**

David's remarkable life begins with his readiness to trust beyond the seen. When confronted by Goliath, he didn't merely rely on physical prowess but placed his hope in something greater: "But David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Hosts'" ([1 Samuel 17:45](#)). This unwavering assurance fueled his boldness and set him apart as a leader who leans on confidence in a higher power rather than on human strength alone.

### **2. Embrace Humility in All Circumstances – "You shall shepherd my people, Israel."**

Although anointed as king at a young age, David was never too proud to serve. He faithfully tended to his father's sheep before leading an entire nation. This spirit of humility gave him patience to wait on his timing for the throne. As he once wrote, "He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches them His way" ([Psalm 25:9](#)). Leaders who maintain humility find themselves guided and strengthened amid every challenge.

### **3. Show Courage in Crisis**

David's leadership arc is filled with moments of danger, from facing wild animals to standing up to formidable foes. Yet he consistently displayed a calm resolve under fire. Even while on the run, he stepped up to protect his men and his people. As we read, "When I am afraid, I put my trust in You" ([Psalm 56:3](#)). True leadership recognizes that courage is not the absence of fear, it is faith in action.

### **4. Unite Others Through Kindness**

Countless times, David chose mercy over retaliation, even with those who opposed him. After hearing of King Saul's death, David mourned

and honored him, refusing to celebrate his downfall. Such compassion speaks to the power of unity rooted in kindness. The result? People were drawn to a leader who extended grace instead of harboring bitterness.

## **5. Listen for Guidance**

David often sought direction rather than relying on his own instincts. Whether asking whether to go into battle or seeking clarity for key decisions, he always paused to inquire. This approach aligns with his words, “Make me know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths” ([Psalm 25:4](#)). Leaders who consistently seek wisdom discover the best choices for those they serve.

## **6. Lead with Transparency**

David was not a flawless leader, but he modeled honesty when confronted with his shortcomings. After his failures, he humbly acknowledged them and turned from destructive paths. This transparency strengthened trust with the people around him. Just as [Psalm 32:5](#) reflects, “Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not hide my iniquity.” Leaders who step up and own their mistakes foster genuine respect.

## **7. Overcome Obstacles with Resourcefulness**

When faced with Goliath, David did not try to imitate others by wearing oversized armor; instead, he used his well-practiced sling and trust in the unseen. His ability to adapt in challenging times confirmed his ingenuity. Creative and resourceful leaders are more likely to find solutions when everyone else sees only limitations.

## **8. Surround Yourself with Committed Allies**

David attracted mighty men who risked their lives to serve alongside him. They were drawn by his vision and heart. This principle reminds leaders of the power that comes from choosing loyal companions who share the same goals. “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor” ([Ecclesiastes 4:9](#)). Building a strong team translates to a strong, united leadership.

## 9. Turn Setbacks into Opportunities

David's leadership journey was not without trials. Being pursued by Saul forced him into caves, but it also allowed him to refine his leadership style and gather devoted followers. Instead of giving up, he seized that difficult period to grow in wisdom. Great leaders spot potential in every struggle and emerge even stronger.

## 10. Keep Your Focus on the Greater Purpose

David's ultimate vision was bigger than himself. He brought the Ark into Jerusalem, setting the stage for a place where people could honor a cause larger than any single person—an example of leadership aiming toward lasting impact. As David proclaimed, "Declare His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all peoples" ([Psalm 96:3](#)). Leaders who maintain this broader focus inspire loyalty, hope, and unity in their communities.

-Internet.

○

Responsorial Psalm

[Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5](#)

R. (cf. 1) **Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

I rejoiced because they said to me,

"We will go up to the house of the LORD."

And now we have set foot

within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Jerusalem, built as a city

with compact unity.

To it the tribes go up,

the tribes of the LORD.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

According to the decree for Israel,

to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

In it are set up judgment seats,

seats for the house of David.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

## Reading 2

### Colossians 1:12-20

Brothers and sisters:

Let us give thanks to the Father,  
who has made you fit to share  
in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.

He delivered us from the power of darkness  
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,  
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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.

**A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.**

In this magnificent poetic hymn, the highlight and center piece is Jesus as the image and revealer of God – “He is, in him, through him, and for him....image of the invisible God, created all things, before all things, firstborn from the dead, preeminent....in him all fullness was pleased to

**dwell – to name a few references as Jesus being the image and revealer of God.”**

**A stronger and more theologically profound statements of faith of Christ’s cosmic sovereignty is impossible. The affirmation that Jesus Christ is before all things and that all things hold together in him, further supports the point that his authority is primordial, his reign universal, and his power absolute. The hymn’s emphasis on the absolute sovereignty of Christ makes sense considering the other cosmic powers who were worshipped. In essence, there are none except Jesus who is first-born from the dead and preeminent in this new creation.**

**According to Paul, Jesus Christ is head of the Church, the firstborn and fullness resides in him. The “worldly” philosophies are powerless, imperfect, and the Church is superior to all the conflicting theologies and philosophies. Paul concludes with a prayer that Jesus Christ is one, supreme, and transcendent king of the universe. In him there is unspeakable greatness and majesty. In “The Martyrdom of Ignatius of Antioch” he proclaims this to the Emperor Trajan to his face, “I have Christ the King of heaven within me...May I now enjoy his Kingdom.”**

**Alleluia**

**Mark 11:9, 10**

**R. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel**

**Luke 23:35-43**

**The rulers sneered at Jesus and said,**

**"He saved others, let him save himself  
if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God."**

**Even the soldiers jeered at him.**

**As they approached to offer him wine they called out,**

**"If you are King of the Jews, save yourself."**

**Above him there was an inscription that read,**

**"This is the King of the Jews."**

**Now Are you not the Christ?**

**Save yourself and us."**

**The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,**

**"Have you no fear of God,**

**for you are subject to the same condemnation? One of the criminals hanging there  
reviled Jesus, saying,**

**And indeed, we have been condemned justly,**

**for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,  
but this man has done nothing criminal."**

**Then he said,**

**"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."**

**He replied to him,**

**"Amen, I say to you,**

**today you will be with me in Paradise."**

**A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.**

Liturgically, we have arrived at the end of Ordinary Time and at the threshold of Advent, the beginning of Cycle A, a new Church year. Over the past liturgical year, the primacy and universality of Jesus was paramount. Jesus has been described as a prophet, messiah, the son of a carpenter, the Lamb of God, the anointed one, a healer, the storyteller, the good shepherd, the Lord, and many other images. He has been portrayed as human like us, afraid sometimes, faced temptation, and struggled with his identity.

Today, he is acclaimed “King.” Socially, Walt Disney gave us Mufasa in the Lion King, parents have read the story of Babar, the King of Elephants for bedtime reading. Elvis Presley is still “King of Rock and Roll,” some people claim they have seen him on the streets. The king in Camelot is portrayed as a man of courage, sensitivity who dreamed of an ideal kingdom where peace and justice reigned. No writer created as many kings as Shakespeare did. Some were based on historical kings and others were fictional or drawn from mythology. Then in the political realm there is the “No Kings Act.” “Millions gathered on Saturday, October 18, 2025 in cities across the United States — and overseas — for [No Kings rallies](#) in protest of President Donald Trump’s administration, and to call for the defense of First Amendment rights.” -

Internet. What would Jesus say about this kind of rally against such political leaders? Should churches be involved in politics? Should churches be challenging governments, business corporations, and everyone to establish a more just economic, political, and social order? The Holy Longing, Ron Rolheiser, p. 54.

In the Gospel, it is the rulers who are on trial. Jesus is in our hands. We must decide what to do with him. Jesus is treated rudely – sneering at him except the repentant criminal points to the innocence of this “kingly” man. The early Christian was not speaking about a political kingdom, but a king who contradicted and challenged the sovereignty of Caesar (or any political leader who aspires to authoritarianism) as Lord and King. Christ the King transcends space, time, categories, and structures. Jesus calls all of us to unity and challenges us to open our hearts and our minds to our oneness with nature, others, and the universe.

“O praise the name of God on high, you servants of the Lord; from morning till the setting sun, be everywhere adored. The laws of God make glad my heart, he makes his mercies known; All kings and nations now bow

down to kneel before his throne.” – Laudate Nomen Domini, Christopher Tye (1505-c. 1571).

**Final prayer:** Transcendent God, your son, Jesus, is proclaimed as King of the universe who has come among us not to be served but to serve. May your Holy Spirit energize us to be priest, prophet, and king as servant leaders. Amen.