

Gospel Reflection

The attitude of “looking out for number one” reigns supreme in many parts of our society, even in parts of our Church. That attitude informs the Gospel passage today, as we hear three times the challenge made to Jesus to “save himself” from his awful, humiliating death on the cross. The rulers of his own people sneer at him, the soldiers jeer at him, one of the criminals crucified with him reviles him; all treat him with scorn at his refusal or inability to “look out for number one,” to save himself. But if there is any doubt about the ability of Jesus to save, it is erased in his words to the other criminal: “Today you will be with me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43).

In Roman crucifixion, crosses had little plank seats upon which the bodies of the crucified were propped. Their bodies, growing heavy with weakening and dying, would likely fall off without this seat. This seat, propping up the body of Jesus as it gasped for its final breaths, is the royal seat of our Savior and King. For us, he sat upon that most horrid throne. Like us, Jesus would agree that you have to look out for “number one.” The difference is that at the words “number one” he wouldn’t jab a jaunty thumb at his own chest. He’d extend a loving embrace between earth and heaven for each of us, the children of earth, the little ones in whom his own face shines. The rulers, the soldiers, one of the criminals, all were skeptical about the saving power of our King, because he would not—and they presumed could not—save himself. What this King shows all of us is that God’s power is to save us, to remember us in his kingdom, to take us with him to the light of Paradise.

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KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Luke 23:35-43

N A E P X S S K G N T G S
 E O R K R S I N S O S N E
 K C I E U N O L X I I K N
 U I L T G B A L Z T R J T
 M U N D A N E S D P H E E
 R B O G I N A R V I C W N
 X M R M U V M S B R E S C
 E L I V E R W E J C U R E
 U R E G C E M M D S F U S
 C P A R A D I S E N Y O D
 B I U K P B V R S I O E K
 K K R S N E E R I S O C D
 S T E K P Y E Y R W E X G

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

CHRIST	CRIMINALS	KING
INSCRIPTION	CONDEMNATION	JEWS
KINGDOM	PARADISE	REBUKE
REVILE	RULERS	SAVE
SENTENCE	SNEER	SOLDIERS

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*The Solemnity of Christ the King
11/25/07*

*Luke 23:35-43
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

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Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Luke 23:35-43*

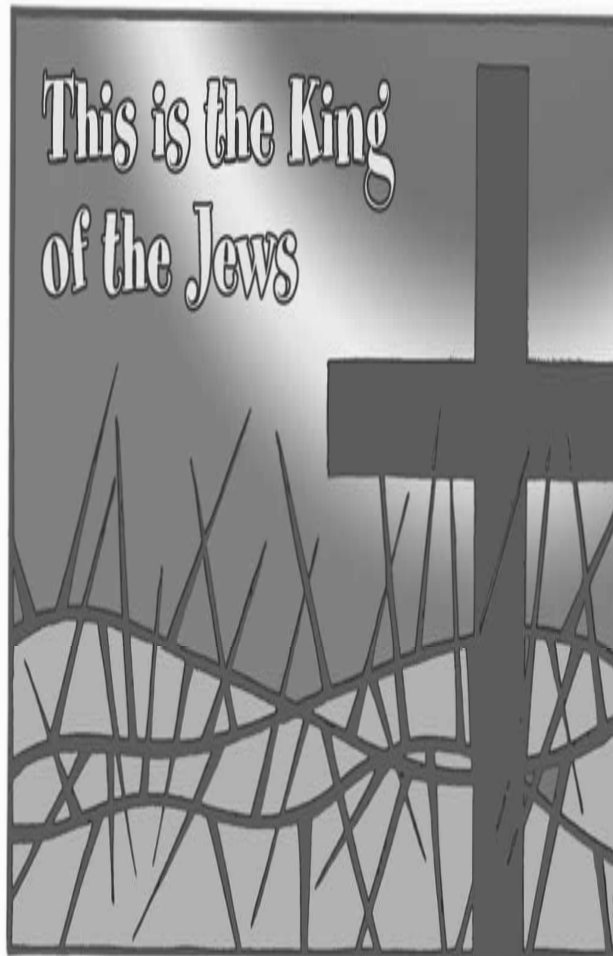
The Gospel according to Luke:

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 one of the criminals hanging there **reviled** Jesus, saying, "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**? 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**."

The Gospel of the Lord



Gospel Glossary

Reviled: insulted or attacked verbally

Rebuked: reprimanded or criticized

Condemnation: legal sentence

Paradise: Heaven

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- How have I followed the example of Jesus, showing mercy even under the most difficult circumstances?
- How is Christ's suffering on the cross an act of leadership?

Closing Prayer

Father all-powerful,

You have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from death to life, resplendent in glory as King of Creation. Free all the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, and to live in his love. Bring all humanity together in Jesus Christ your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Solemnity of Jesus Christ the King