15-23

Novena to Christ the King

2024

regnumchristi.com

Thy Kingdom Come!

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Day 1

"My Kingdom is not of this world"

INITIAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we prepare to celebrate your feast as King of the universe, we want to open our hearts to say, "Thy Kingdom Come!" Give us the grace to identify fully with you so that, seeing the world with your eyes and loving it from your heart, we may allow the seeds of your Kingdom to grow in our own lives, in the lives of our brothers and sisters, and in society.

GOSPEL

John 18:33-37

"My Kingdom is not of this world."

So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?" Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king." For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

(moment of silence)

REFLECTION

"'God is love' and wants to establish in the world his kingdom of love, justice and peace. This is the Kingdom of which Jesus is King, and which extends to the end of time." (Pope Francis, Angelus November 25, 2018).

FINAL PRAYER

V. Christ, our King!
R. Make my heart like yours.

Lord, may you always be the King of my heart. May I have the eyes of an apostle, your eyes, to discover you always present at the crossroads of the life of my brother or sister in need. Help all members of Regnum Christi to make present your reign of love, justice, and peace.
R. Amen.

Day 2

The world in which Christ wants to reign

INITIAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we prepare to celebrate your feast as King of the universe, we want to open our hearts to say, “Thy Kingdom Come!” Give us the grace to identify fully with you so that, seeing the world with your eyes and loving it from your heart, we may allow the seeds of your Kingdom to grow in our own lives, in the lives of our brothers and sisters, and in society.

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:35-37

“When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd.”

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.”

(moment of silence)

REFLECTION

… "Jesus can be proclaimed only by inhabiting the culture of one's own time. ... Apostolic zeal is never a mere repetition of an acquired style, but a witness that the Gospel is alive here for us today. Aware of this, we therefore look to our time and our culture as a gift. These are ours and evangelizing them does not mean judging them from afar, nor does it mean being on a balcony shouting the name of Jesus, but going down to the street, going to the places where we live, frequenting the spaces where we suffer, work, study and reflect, standing at the crossroads where human beings share what has meaning for their lives. It means being, as a Church, "leaven of dialogue, of encounter, of unity." (Pope Francis, *Catechesis The announcement is for today*. November 29, 2023).

FINAL PRAYER

V. Christ, our King!
R. Make my heart like yours.

Lord, may you always be the King of my heart. May I have the eyes of an apostle, your eyes, to discover you always present at the crossroads of the life of my brother or sister in need. Help all members of Regnum Christi to be a leaven of dialogue, of encounter, of unity.
R. Amen.

Day 3

Overcoming temptations

INITIAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we prepare to celebrate your feast as King of the universe, we want to open our hearts to say, “Thy Kingdom Come!” Give us the grace to identify fully with you so that, seeing the world with your eyes and loving it from your heart, we may allow the seeds of your Kingdom to grow in our own lives, in the lives of our brothers and sisters, and in society.

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus is tempted in the desert

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.” He said in reply, “It is written: ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you’ and ‘with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.’” Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, “All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.” At this, Jesus said to him, “Get away, Satan! It is written: ‘The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.’” Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

(moment of silence)

REFLECTION

"Temptation closes all horizons for us" and thus leads us to sin. When we are tempted, "only the Word of God, the word of Jesus, saves us. Listening to that Word opens our horizons", because "He is always ready to teach us how to get out of temptation. Jesus is great because he not only makes us come out of temptation, but also gives us more confidence." (Pope Francis, February 18, 2014).

FINAL PRAYER

V. Christ, our King!
R. Make my heart like yours.

Lord, may you always be the King of my heart. May I have the eyes of an apostle, your eyes, to discover you always present at the crossroads of the life of my brother or sister in need. Help all members of Regnum Christi to be willing to let you teach us how to come out of temptation.
R. Amen.

Day 4

Seeing the world with the eyes of Christ

INITIAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we prepare to celebrate your feast as King of the universe, we want to open our hearts to say, “Thy Kingdom Come!” Give us the grace to identify fully with you so that, seeing the world with your eyes and loving it from your heart, we may allow the seeds of your Kingdom to grow in our own lives, in the lives of our brothers and sisters, and in society.

GOSPEL

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus and Zacchaeus

He came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”

(moment of silence)

REFLECTION

"God did not look down on us to humiliate and judge us, no; on the contrary, he stooped to wash our feet, looking up at us and restoring our dignity. Thus, the exchange of glances between Zacchaeus and Jesus seems to sum up the whole history of salvation: humanity with its miseries seeks redemption, but above all God mercifully seeks his creature to save it. Brothers and sisters, let us remember this: God's gaze never stops at our past full of errors, but looks with infinite trust in what we can become. ... We Christians must have the gaze of Christ, who embraces from below, who seeks the lost with compassion." (Pope Francis. Angelus, October 30, 2022).

FINAL PRAYER

V. Christ, our King!
R. Make my heart like yours.

Lord, may you always be the King of my heart. May I have the eyes of an apostle, your eyes, to discover you always present at the crossroads of the life of my brother or sister in need. Help all members of Regnum Christi to have your gaze that embraces from below, that seeks the lost with compassion.
R. Amen.

Day 5

Loving the world with the Heart of Christ

INITIAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we prepare to celebrate your feast as King of the universe, we want to open our hearts to say, “Thy Kingdom Come!” Give us the grace to identify fully with you so that, seeing the world with your eyes and loving it from your heart, we may allow the seeds of your Kingdom to grow in our own lives, in the lives of our brothers and sisters, and in society.

GOSPEL

John 10:11-18

The Good Shepherd

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.”

(moment of silence)

REFLECTION

"The heart of the Good Shepherd tells us that his love has no limits, he does not tire and he never gives up. In him we see his continuous dedication without any limits; in him we find the source of sweet and faithful love, which sets us free and makes us free; in him we discover anew each time that Jesus loves us "to the end" (Jn 13:1); he does not hesitate, he goes to the end, without ever imposing himself.The heart of the Good Shepherd is inclined towards us, "polarized" especially toward those who are far away; there he tenaciously points the needle of his compass, there he reveals the weakness of a particular love, because he wants to reach everyone and not lose anyone." (Pope Francis. Homily of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. June 3, 2016).

FINAL PRAYER

V. Christ, our King!
R. Make my heart like yours.

Lord, may you always be the King of my heart. May I have the eyes of an apostle, your eyes, to discover you always present at the crossroads of the life of my brother or sister in need. Help all members of Regnum Christi to love until the end.
R. Amen.

Day 6

Fixing our gaze on Christ

INITIAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we prepare to celebrate your feast as King of the universe, we want to open our hearts to say, “Thy Kingdom Come!” Give us the grace to identify fully with you so that, seeing the world with your eyes and loving it from your heart, we may allow the seeds of your Kingdom to grow in our own lives, in the lives of our brothers and sisters, and in society.

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus walks on water

Then he made the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it. During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified. “It is a ghost,” they said, and they cried out in fear. At once Jesus spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” Peter said to him in reply, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how [strong] the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, “Truly, you are the Son of God.”

(moment of silence)

REFLECTION

"This account is a beautiful picture of the faith of the apostle Peter. In the voice of Jesus saying to him, "Come," he recognizes the echo of the first meeting on the shore of that same lake, and immediately, once more, he leaves the boat and goes to the Master. And he walks on the water. A trusting and available response to the Lord's call always makes it possible to do extraordinary things. But Jesus Himself told us that we are able to work miracles with our faith, faith in Him, faith in His word, faith in His voice. Instead, Peter begins to sink the moment he looks away from Jesus and lets himself be overwhelmed by the adversities that surround him. But the Lord is always there, and when Peter calls on him, Jesus saves him from danger. In the character of Peter, with his impulses and weaknesses, our faith is described: always fragile and poor, restless and yet victorious, the faith of the Christian walks towards the encounter with the Risen Lord, in the midst of the storms and dangers of the world." (Pope Francis. Angelus, 10 August 2014).

FINAL PRAYER

V. Christ, our King!
R. Make my heart like yours.

Lord, may you always be the King of my heart. May I have the eyes of an apostle, your eyes, to discover you always present at the crossroads of the life of my brother or sister in need. Help all members of Regnum Christi to set our eyes on you, to have faith in your voice that tells us that with you we are capable of working miracles.
R. Amen.

Day 7

May they all be one so that the world may believe

INITIAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we prepare to celebrate your feast as King of the universe, we want to open our hearts to say, “Thy Kingdom Come!” Give us the grace to identify fully with you so that, seeing the world with your eyes and loving it from your heart, we may allow the seeds of your Kingdom to grow in our own lives, in the lives of our brothers and sisters, and in society.

GOSPEL

John 17:20-26

“May they all be one”

“I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

(moment of silence)

REFLECTION

"Being members of the Body of Christ unites us indissolubly to the Lord and, at the same time, to others. In the Church, "no one should be a mere spectator or, worse, be on the sidelines" no! but rather "everyone must feel an active part of a great family" (...) one cannot "balconear", stay at the window and watch life go by. You have to take the initiative, take risks, walk, encounter others. Only in this way can communities grow with a mother's face and a style of effective fraternity, where all have "one heart and one soul" and where everything is common among them. ... Only together, in the harmony of diversity, can we bear witness to the beauty of love that liberates, that gives itself, that allows us to emerge from the negative dynamics of selfishness, conflicts and oppositions." (Pope Francis, February 16, 2023).

FINAL PRAYER

V. Christ, our King!
R. Make my heart like yours.

Lord, may you always be the King of my heart. May I have the eyes of an apostle, your eyes, to discover you always present at the crossroads of the life of my brother or sister in need. Help all members of Regnum Christi to form communities with a mother's face and a style of effective fraternity, where all have "one heart and one soul."
R. Amen.

Day 8

Going out to the crossroads

INITIAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we prepare to celebrate your feast as King of the universe, we want to open our hearts to say, “Thy Kingdom Come!” Give us the grace to identify fully with you so that, seeing the world with your eyes and loving it from your heart, we may allow the seeds of your Kingdom to grow in our own lives, in the lives of our brothers and sisters, and in society.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

“Go to the crossroads and invite everyone you meet to the banquet.”

Jesus again in reply spoke to them in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those invited: “Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast.”’ Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.’ The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. He said to him, ‘My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?’ But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, ‘Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’ Many are invited, but few are chosen.”

(moment of silence)

REFLECTION

"We need to be at the crossroads of today. To leave them would mean impoverishing the Gospel and reducing the Church to a sect. Frequenting them, however, helps us Christians to understand in a renewed way the reasons for our hope, to draw upon and share the treasure of faith "the new and the old" (Mt13:52). In short, rather than wanting to reconvert today's world, it is necessary to convert pastoral care so that it may better embody the Gospel in our day (cf.*Evangelii Gaudium*, 25). Let us make Jesus' desire our own: to help our fellow travelers not to lose their desire for God, to open their hearts to him and to meet the only one who, today and always, gives peace and joy to man." (Pope Francis, *Catechesis The announcement is for today*. November 29, 2023).

FINAL PRAYER

V. Christ, our King!
R. Make my heart like yours.

Lord, may you always be the King of my heart. May I have the eyes of an apostle, your eyes, to discover you always present at the crossroads of the life of my brother or sister in need. Help all members of Regnum Christi to become healthily restless seekers of the Kingdom of Heaven.
R. Amen.

Day 9
What are you looking for?

Jesus Christ the King: yesterday, today, and forever

INITIAL PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we prepare to celebrate your feast as King of the universe, we want to open our hearts to say, "Thy Kingdom Come!" Give us the grace to identify fully with you so that, seeing the world with your eyes and loving it from your heart, we may allow the seeds of your Kingdom to grow in our own lives, in the lives of our brothers and sisters, and in society.

GOSPEL

John 1:36-39

"What are you looking for?" "Rabbi, where do you live?"

And as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.

(moment of silence)

REFLECTION

"Jesus proposes to involve us in the building of the Kingdom of Heaven, presenting an essential characteristic of Christian life, of the life of the Kingdom of heaven: those who fully pledge themselves to the Kingdom are those who are willing to stake everything, who are courageous. We are called upon to assume the attitude of these two Gospel figures, so that we too may become healthily restless seekers of the Kingdom of Heaven. In our times, as we are all aware, the lives of some people can end up mediocre and dull because they probably do not go in search of a true treasure." (Pope Francis, Angelus, July 26, 2020).

FINAL PRAYER

V. Christ, our King!
R. Make my heart like yours.

Lord, may you always be the King of my heart. May I have the eyes of an apostle, your eyes, to discover you always present at the crossroads of the life of my brother or sister in need. Help all members of Regnum Christi to become healthily restless seekers of the Kingdom of Heaven.
R. Amen.

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