

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe • Year C • November 23, 2025

Catechist Preparation

Scripture

FIRST READING—2 SAMUEL 5:1-3

The tribes of Israel flock to David. Because of his great military prowess, they acclaim him king. Even before the people recognized his greatness, the prophet Samuel had given voice to the will of God, who called and anointed David to lead Israel.

SECOND READING—COLOSSIANS 1:12-20

In the fullness of time, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, teaching, healing, suffering, dying, and rising from the dead.

GOSPEL—LUKE 23:35-43

Jesus reigns from the Cross. He triumphs over evil, sin, and death. By his wounds, he has saved us. By his blood, he makes peace, reconciling earth to Heaven.

Church Teaching: Christ the King

Christ's lordship extends over all of human history. He reigns above every earthly power and principality, for he is the Redeemer of all people. Past, present, and future generations are offered Salvation in the One who by his suffering, Death, and Resurrection has achieved what we could never achieve on our own. No earthly reality or person is above Jesus. He reigns supreme. Everything and everyone is subject to the power of his saving love and goodness.

Further Reading

Catechism of the Catholic Church: 542, 668, 671

United States Catholic Catechism for Adults: Chapter 7, especially pages 79–80

Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II: Chapter 2 and pages 126–127

Jesus also reigns over the Church, of which he is Head. The Church faithfully observes Christ's precepts of charity, humility, and self-denial and receives from Christ the mission of proclaiming and establishing among all peoples the Kingdom of God. The Church hopes and desires with every bit of her strength to be united in glory with her King.

Dismissal Session

(Approximately 20 minutes)

Set the space with chairs in a circle. On a small table, place a green cloth, an open Bible or Lectionary, a candle, and a crucifix with INRI at the top.

Discover

1. Ask the children what images and thoughts come to mind when they hear the word *king* and why.
2. Ask what they think a king does.
3. Invite volunteers to fill in the blank: *If I were king for a day, I would _____.*

Deepen

1. Gather the children around the prayer table and sing the Alleluia sung at your parish.
2. Proclaim the Gospel, Luke 23:35-43.
3. Ask the children what the soldiers called Jesus. (*King of the Jews*)
4. While they are gathered around the prayer table, show them the crucifix and explain that the INRI at the top of the crucifix stands for "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews."
5. Invite the children to return to their places, close their eyes, and quiet themselves.
6. Lead the children in the guided meditation outlined on the third page of this handout.
7. After doing so, invite those who wish to share a word or two about their conversations with Jesus.

Pray

Sing “Soon and Very Soon,” “The King of Glory,” or another hymn honoring Christ the King!

Extended Catechesis Session

(Approximately 45 to 60 minutes)

Supplies Needed

In addition to the prayer table setup, you will need copies of the participant handout for each child and—if available—a liturgical year calendar for each child. You will also need a flip chart or whiteboard and markers.

Sunday Word

2 Samuel 5:1-3

Psalms 122:1-5

Colossians 1:12-20

Luke 23:35-43

Welcome

Welcome everyone and invite one or two children to share some of the key points from the **Dismissal Session**. Also invite volunteers who wish to share what they did for their **Work of Justice** this past week.

Invite

1. Gather the children around the prayer table and ask them to again share what they think of when they think of the word *king*.
2. Explain that one of the titles for Jesus is “King.”
3. Invite them to listen carefully to the Gospel reading (Luke 23:35-43) to see if Jesus the King fits their usual image of a king.
4. Sing the Alleluia sung at your parish and then proclaim the Gospel, Luke 23:35-43.
5. Ask what is different about Jesus the King.
(Answers will vary, but might include that he is not wealthy; he is not wearing a crown of gold; he is being made fun of; he is called King of the Jews; his kingdom is not on earth; his kingdom is Paradise, or Heaven.)

6. As you did in the dismissal session, show the children the crucifix and point out the INRI at the top. Ask a volunteer to remind the group what this stands for. (*Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews*)

Teach

1. Invite the children to return to their places. Continue the discussion about Christ the King, highlighting the following points:
 - Jesus Christ is King of Heaven and earth.
 - As King, Jesus reigns over all for all eternity. There is no power greater than his.
 - Christ the King is also the Head of the Church. The work of the Church is to carry on the mission of Christ by sharing the Good News of Salvation with the whole world.
 - Through our Baptism, we are called to help bring about the Kingdom of Christ, the Kingdom of God. It is a kingdom of truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love, and peace. This work will not be completed until the end of time.
2. Read and discuss **Key Teachings** and **Faith Words**.
3. Take time to distribute the new liturgical (Church) year calendars. Use the information on the calendar or pages 126–127 of *Our Catholic Heritage* as your guide for introducing the children to the upcoming liturgical year. It begins next Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent.

Challenge

1. Invite the children to share ideas of ways that they can grow as disciples of Jesus. List their suggestions on the flip chart or whiteboard.
2. Give them time to choose one idea on the list or an idea of their own as a “New Year’s resolution” for the new liturgical year.

Pray

Pray the prayer on the front of the participant handout. Conclude by singing “Soon and Very Soon,” “The King of Glory Comes,” or another hymn that honors Christ the King.

Guided Meditation

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

*Invite the children to close their eyes and to quiet themselves.
Lead a guided meditation on today's Gospel (Luke 23:35-43)
using the following or similar words.*

Imagine you are in the crowd that has gathered
to watch this man, Jesus, be crucified.

How are you feeling?
What are you thinking?
Are you angry? Sad? Curious? Afraid?

The soldiers and the crowd
begin to make fun of Jesus.
They say words like, "Save yourself.
If you are King of the Jews, save yourself.
You saved others. Save yourself."

Do you join in their making fun of Jesus?
Or are you quiet?

You notice that there are
two others being crucified.
You find out they are criminals.
What do you think Jesus might say to them?

You could not hear it because
the crowd was so loud,
but one of the criminals asked Jesus
to remember him
when he comes into his kingdom.

If you had been that criminal
on the cross next to Jesus,
what would you have asked him?

Jesus promises the criminal that
today he will be with him
in Paradise, in Heaven.

What does Jesus promise you today?

*After a few moments of quiet,
invite volunteers to share a word or two
that describes what they thought of
during the meditation
and during the quiet time
for reflection that followed.*

