

Year C - Feast of Christ the King

Luke 23:35-43

*Lord, remember me when you
come into your kingdom.*



While the crowd stood there watching Jesus, the leaders insulted him by saying,
"He saved others. Now he should save himself, if he really is God's chosen Messiah!"

The soldiers made fun of Jesus and brought him some wine.

They said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!"

Above him was a sign that said, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals hanging there also insulted Jesus by saying, "Aren't you the
Messiah?"

Save yourself and save us!"

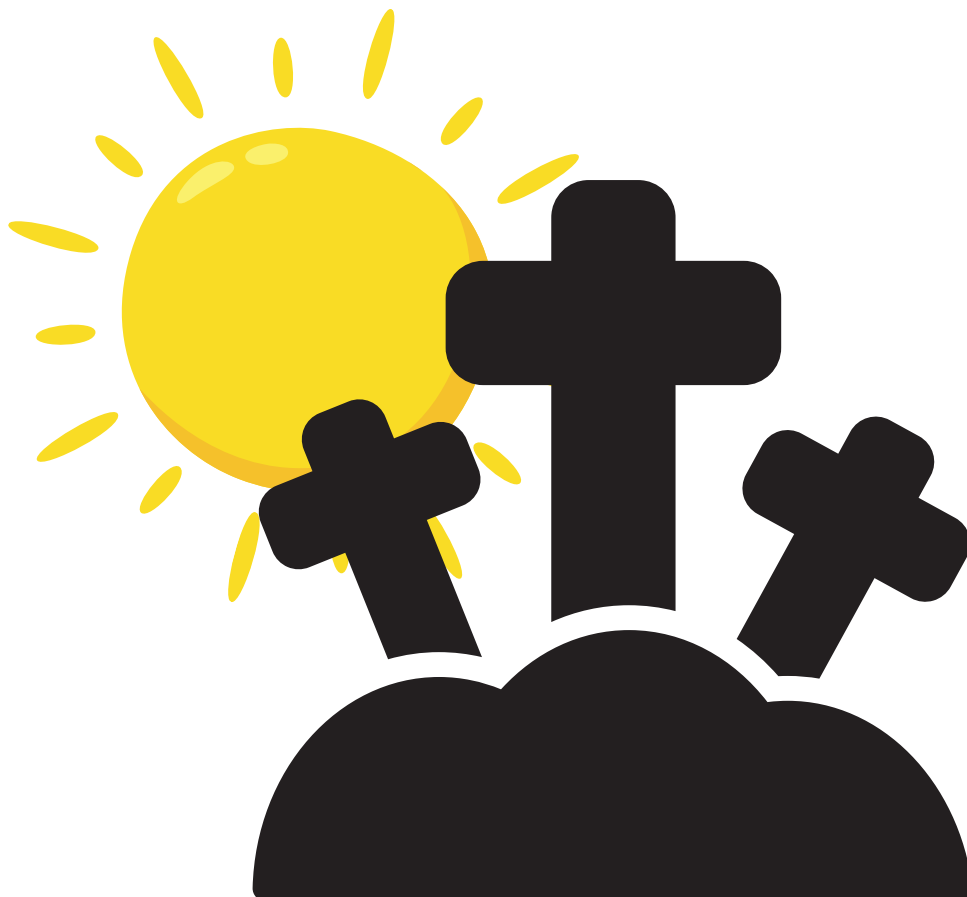
But the other criminal told the first one off, "Don't you fear God?"

Aren't you getting the same punishment as this man?

We got what was coming to us, but he didn't do anything wrong."

Then he said to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into power!"

Jesus replied, "I promise that today you will be with me in paradise."



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Jesus is the King



Introduction:

- Today's gospel can be a difficult one with children because it is set during Jesus final hours as he is being crucified. But through his suffering, death and resurrection, Jesus defeated death. It is through this that Jesus reveals that he is truly the 'King of Kings'. And, through his interaction with the thief, he reveals what sort of King he is. He is loving and merciful and his kingdom will last forever.

Message:

- After reading the gospel, discuss each of the characters and what they are doing and saying, and what they may be thinking.
- The crowds - they are calling out things to try and mock Jesus but, even though they are trying to be mean to Jesus, the things they are saying are *actually* true - Jesus IS the Messiah, the Kings of the Jews - and he is actually showing everyone that right at that moment.
- The thieves - one is being mean like the crowd but the other is sorry. He can see the truth that Jesus is the King. He believes and he asks Jesus to forgive him.
- Jesus - Jesus is suffering but he loves everyone so much. He wants them to have life forever in heaven. He knows the only way to do this is to die on the cross. Even though he is suffering, he forgives the good thief and promises to be with him in heaven very soon.
- The feast of Christ the King reminds us that Jesus wants to be the king of our hearts. Wherever Jesus is king, there is peace, love, justice and mercy.

Discussion:

- What sort of a king is Jesus?
- What is Jesus kingdom like?
- What choices would we make if Jesus is our king?

