

THE SUNDAY PAPER

JUNIOR

Year B

PROPER 29

TRACKS 1 and 2

"Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
the ruler of the kings of the earth,
loves us and has made us

a Kingdom of priests to God"

REVELATION 1:5-6



A NOTE TO PARENTS

This Sunday is the Feast of Christ the King. It is the last Sunday in the Church year, and, like a hinge, it holds together the weeks of the old year preceding it and the new season of Advent that follows, making the turn of the church year into a kind of larger Advent. During this pivotal season we are led to think about Jesus' last weeks on earth as a preface to celebrating his first coming, at Christmas.

Jesus "comes" at Advent (which means *coming*); he is the one of whom we say, "Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord." He comes to be our King; he has come, and he will come again. On this Sunday, the Feast of Christ the King, we ask ourselves just what kind of a King this is.

We have heard again and again this fall that our King is a king who comes in weakness, not in strength; who chooses the poor and outcast; who comes into his kingdom by dying on a cross. We have been told that we must embrace the same cross, and follow him. Today our Scriptures entrust us with a picture of what lies in store for us when our King has come into his own. It is well paraphrased in the familiar hymn (Hymnal 1982, #522): "Blest inhabitants of Zion, washed in the Redeemer's blood! Jesus, whom their souls rely on, makes them kings and priests to God." We too are to be kings and queens—not only living with him but reigning with him in glory.

Children need very little help in understanding what this means. It is, once again, the ending of the fairy tale, where the bride and groom become king and queen and live happily ever after. As Bruno Bettelheim tells us, this powerful, universal image stands for the achievement of true selfhood after one has undergone all trials, met all enemies, suffered all there is to suffer. The point of being a king or queen is not that we rule over others, but that others (and our own evil side) no longer rule over us. We are free: not to take liberties, but to be, at last, ourselves. When we are kings and queens we will all see each other as God made us to be: each of us a marvel of goodness, wisdom, and beauty, each of us mirroring the sovereign goodness of Christ our King.

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TODAY IS THE SUNDAY OF "CHRIST THE KING."

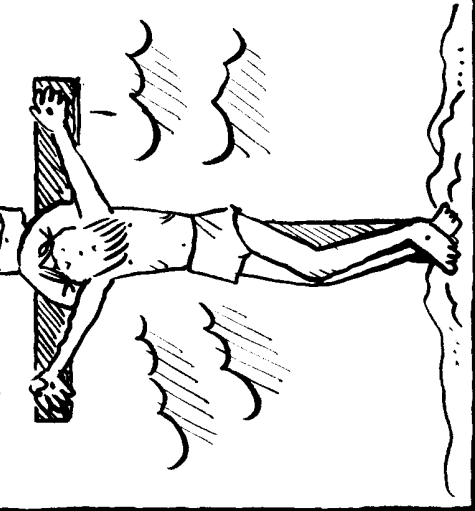
Jesus is a special kind of king. He was not born in a palace, but in a stable.



He did not lead an army and win battles. Instead, he came in love and peace.



He gave up everything he had, to show his love for us.

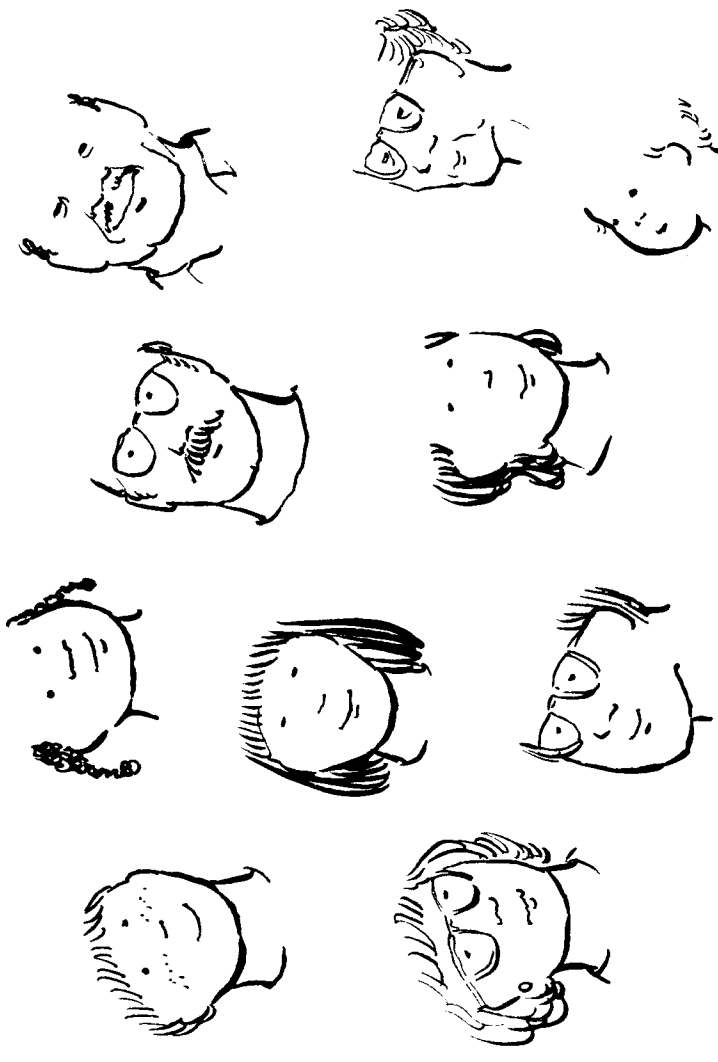


God made him our King, and he won new life to share with us forever.



Jesus is our king. He won his Kingdom in a hard and strange way, by dying on the cross for us.

Jesus has made us his people. He rules over us. But the Bible says that all his people are kings and queens too!



Draw crowns on the heads of these people who belong to Christ the King.