

Feast of Christ the King

King of the Jews

INTRODUCTION

Today is the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical year, when we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Jesus had been sentenced to die on the cross; and the soldiers and crowds, who had gathered to watch his suffering, jeered and made fun of the "King of the Jews."

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Sing together the alternate Candle Song.

SORRY

Together, we ask Jesus to forgive us and to make us more forgiving towards others as we listen to the words of this prayer:

Teach us your ways, Lord,
and make them known to all your people.
Show us how to walk in your truth,
because you are our savior
and we can always trust
in your love and forgiveness.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel, sing this Acclamation to the tune of *Hickory, Dickory, Dock*:

Christ is the king of the world;
one day he will come back.
And we will see him full glory...
Christ is the king of the world.

GOSPEL (LUKE 23:35-43)

The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross, and above him hung a sign which said: "This is the King of the Jews." A crowd had gathered to watch, and they laughed and made fun of him saying, "If you are so great, save yourself now!"

At the same time two thieves were crucified with Jesus, one on either side. One of the thieves jeered, "You call yourself a king! If you had any power, you could save yourself and us as well!" But the other thief said, "Leave him alone. We deserve

to be punished, but he has done nothing wrong."

Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, do not forget me in your kingdom." Jesus answered, "Today we will be together in heaven."

DISCUSSION

The soldiers and the crowd teased Jesus and made fun of him. They hung a sign above him on the cross, which read, "This is the King of the Jews." Earlier, some of the soldiers had made a "crown" from thorny branches and had wrapped a red cloak around Jesus to make fun of him.

How would you describe a king to someone? They often live in a palace; they have servants to take care of all their needs; on grand occasions, they wear a crown; they own jewels and treasures and are very wealthy; they rule over their kingdom; and their people do as they command.

People laughed at Jesus when he called himself a king. He had no wealth, no fine palaces, or servants; he ruled over no country, and had no army to save him.

Jesus had told them, "My kingdom is not of this world," but people did not understand. His kingdom is the sharing of God's love with each of us. People who put their love for God and their neighbor before anything else are a part of the kingdom. The kingdom of God grows in people who love Jesus, and as they grow in love, kindness, and forgiveness, so God's kingdom grows, too.

What did Jesus promise the good thief? That he would not forget his faith and trust, and that he would be welcomed into the kingdom of heaven.

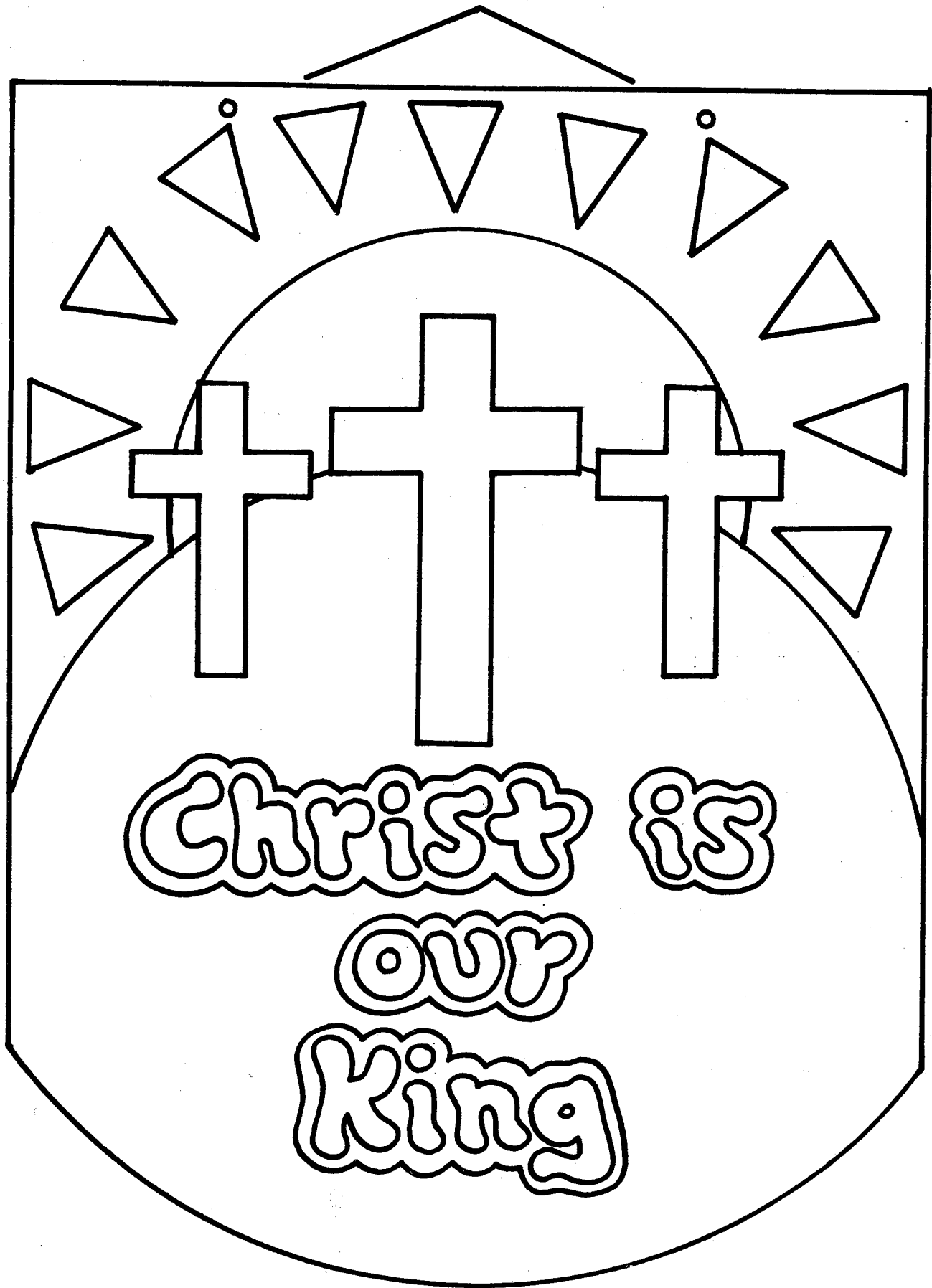
ACTIVITY

Cut out the three crosses and a sun with rays, and ask the children to color them. Ask some of the children to color the banner background before gluing the crosses and sun in position. Add the caption "Christ is our king."

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you come to share the good news of God's kingdom with the whole world. May your love reign in our hearts always. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Christ is
our
King