

Year B

## Feast of Christ the King

### Jesus before Pontius Pilate

#### INTRODUCTION

The Jewish leaders were afraid that Jesus would lead the people to rise up against them, so they plotted to have him arrested and sentenced to death.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read this passage:

Live your lives as children of the light. Do not hide in the darkness, for there is nothing to fear. Fill your lives with love and goodness, and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

(Romans 13:12-14)

#### SORRY

Close your eyes and listen to this reading:

Lord, those who turn away from you do wrong;  
those who are wise worship you.

Lord, you see all that we do;  
help us to do what is right.

(Psalm 15:2-3)

(Allow the children a few moments to think about these words.)

#### 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 (JOHN 18:33-37)

They brought Jesus before Pontius Pilate who asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world."

"So you do indeed claim to be a king!" said Pilate. "You are the one who calls me king," answered Jesus. "I came into this world to share truth and love, and those who know and love the truth will listen to me."

#### DISCUSSION

Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea. He was in charge of the Roman army and responsible for keeping the peace. He acted as judge when serious crimes were committed.

Why was Jesus brought before Pontius Pilate? The Jewish leaders had seen the welcome given to Jesus as he entered Jerusalem, and they were afraid of his position and power. They wanted to get rid of Jesus by whatever means they could, so they took Jesus to Pilate and asked for him to be sentenced to death.

Jesus tried to explain to Pilate that he was not a king who belonged to this world, but that he had come into the world to share his kingdom of love and goodness.

Pilate knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong, but he was more interested in keeping the peace and not upsetting the Jewish leaders than in seeing that justice was done. He allowed the Jewish leaders to have their own way, and eventually, handed Jesus over to be put to death.

Three days later on Easter Sunday, he rose from the dead and showed the world that he is the king of the universe with the power to conquer death and bring new and everlasting life.

#### ACTIVITY

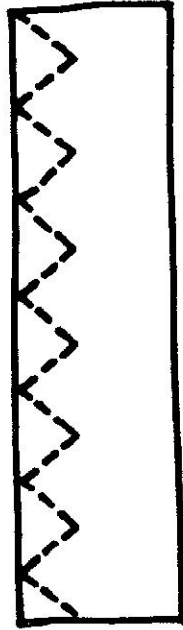
Cut out crown shapes from paper and write on each one "Christ is our King." Decorate these and staple the crowns so that they can be worn or carried by the children.

#### CREED

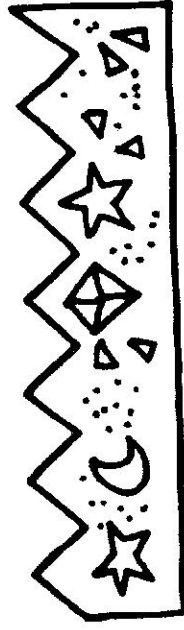
#### CLOSING PRAYER

God our father, we thank you  
for sending your only son to be our savior.  
Help us to know and love your truth  
and to listen to you always.

1. Cut out crown shapes from stiff card.



2. Decorate with stick-on shapes and glitter.



3. Staple crowns two ends together.

