

Thy Kingdom Come!

## NOVENA TO CHRIST THE KING

### OPENING PRAYER FOR EACH DAY OF THE NOVENA

**V/** Lord Jesus Christ, we come to you filled with gratitude, you who came into this world which was gripped by the power of the Evil One in order to establish your Kingdom of truth and of life, of holiness and of grace, of justice and of peace. After kindling in the hearts of those who met you the hope of the imminent arrival of your Kingdom, you turned towards Jerusalem to be handed over to those who hated you, to be condemned to death, to be mocked, to be scourged, and to be crucified. And after your priestly sacrifice was fulfilled - after, obedient to the Father until the end, you fell to the earth and died like a grain of wheat - you rose from the dead, and by your resurrection defeated evil, death, and sin forever.

From that day on, each one of us is called to be configured ever more closely to the victory of your Kingdom in his own heart. Each one of us is called to leave aside the old man and to cooperate with your grace, striving with prayer and apostolic works that your Kingdom may be extended throughout the world.

We beg you Lord to kindle in us the fire that burns in your soul, so that the entire world may experience the fire of your love. And in this novena consecrated to you, we ask you with greater intensity: “Kingdom of the Heart of Jesus Christ, reign in our hearts, in the heart of all families, of society, of Regnum Christi, of the Church, of the entire world”.

**R/** Christ our King, “Thy Kingdom Come!”

**Day 1** Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:30-33)

**V/** Christ, our King, who comes to the world to seek and to save what was lost (Luke 19:10), teach us to welcome your Kingdom with the faith of your Mother, Mary.

**R/** Kingdom of the Heart of Jesus Christ, reign in our hearts.

**Day 2** When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” (Matthew 2: 1-2)

**V/** Christ, our King, you are found by those who seek you with all their heart (cf. Jeremiah 29: 14). Grant us a true spirit of adoration that enables us to enter into a deep communion of love with you.

**R/** Kingdom of the Heart of Jesus Christ, reign in our hearts.

**Day 3** After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” (Mark 1: 14-15)

**V/** Christ, our King, you call us to strengthen our weak hands and make firm our trembling knees (cf. Isaiah 35:3) with the proclamation of your Kingdom. Bring us to a deeper conversion to your Gospel, and enable us to proclaim it with conviction.

**R/** Kingdom of the Heart of Jesus Christ, reign in our hearts.

**Day 4** “As for you, do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not worry anymore. All the nations of the world seek for these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides. Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.” (Luke 12:29-32)

**V/** Christ our King, may you have the joy of seeing us living the beatitude “blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3)

**R/** Kingdom of the Heart of Jesus Christ, reign in our hearts.

**Day 5** “This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.” (Mark 4:26-29) He spoke to them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened.” (Matthew 13:33)

**V/** Christ, our King, may we be a seed of faith and a leaven of charity among all people, until you are all in all. (cf. Colossians 3:11)

**R/** Kingdom of the Heart of Jesus Christ, reign in our hearts.

**Day 6** “Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” (Mark 10:14-15)

**V/** Christ, our King, we beg you to make us be born again from on high (cf. John 3:3), so that our weakness may be both our glory and the unshakeable foundation of our confidence.

**R/** Kingdom of the Heart of Jesus Christ, reign in our hearts.

**Day 7** “Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”(Matthew 25:34-40)

**V/** Christ, our King, in a world hungering for your word (cf. Amos 8:11), in a world stripped of love, in a world so often the prisoner of sin, give us faith to recognize your face in our needy brothers and sisters.

**R/** Kingdom of the Heart of Jesus Christ, reign in our hearts.

**Day 8** Jesus said, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here.” So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” (John 18:36-37)

**V/** Christ our King, never allow sin to darken our hearts and make us deny the truth that we have known in you. (cf. Hebrews 10: 26)

**R/** Kingdom of the Heart of Jesus Christ, reign in our hearts.

**Day 9** Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, “If you are King of the Jews, save yourself.” Above him there was an inscription that read, “This is the King of the Jews.” Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us.” The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, “Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied to him, “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”(Luke 23:36-43)

**V/** Christ, our King, who from the cross draw the gaze of all people to yourself in order to give us the certainty of forgiveness and of an unbreakable love (cf. Numbers 9:21), grant that our efforts to evangelize may always flow from the experience of your mercy in our lives.

**R/** Kingdom of the Heart of Jesus Christ, reign in our hearts.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

**V/** O King, meek and humble of heart, who promised that when you were lifted up from the earth you would draw all people to yourself, grant that every heart shattered by the wound of sin may accept your gentle power.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing (Revelation 5:12)

**R/** To him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:6)