

Today is the last Sunday in our Liturgical Church Year. Today is also the end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. We have lived mercy in our actions and our learning and our prayer and hopefully have discovered something new about ourselves and the plight of others as we were called to be more merciful in our way of life.

This helps us to understand and celebrate the true meaning of the feast of Christ the King. Usually kingship entails royalty and honor. For Jesus, his kingship is proclaimed through the cross. For even as Jesus hangs on the Cross between two thieves, one thief taunting him, and the other thief recognizing him and asking for forgiveness, Jesus offers forgiveness and mercy.

Jesus' entire life has been one of sacrifice and surrender, of reaching out to the lost and the hurting, of embracing those who are vulnerable and in need.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to live this way, where self-surrender and selflessness reign, where forgiveness and mercy, faithfulness and patience, are the honor we bestow on one another.

Today let us reflect on the ways we can live the virtues of this kingdom. Who needs our forgiveness, our compassion, our patience this day?

So as our Jubilee Year of Mercy ends, our way of mercy living is only deepening. May we celebrate Christ's Kingship today and everyday by living Jesus' way of faithfulness and forgiveness and mercy.