

Hear This!

If ever there was a message to hear, the message of the Good News of Jesus that the reign of God is at hand and already in our midst is one you really want to share with everyone and proclaim to one and all, **hear this!** This conversation takes up the wondrous message about the reign of God—which is another way to say kingdom of heaven, and then how Jesus’ life, death and resurrection started it all. This was the topic at the Orientation Session of the Catechumenate for the 2007 liturgical year at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, in Holladay, Utah, from which this podcast derives. At that session we spent a lot of time exploring the structures and experiences that are unique to each of the four various periods of the whole Catechumenate. The message that the structures and experiences of the whole Catechumenate raise-up is Jesus’ –he proclaimed that the Kingdom of God is at hand. His life, death and resurrection invite us to *hear this* message.

Jesus’ message continues to be raised-up in the Church and the Church’s message is that the Kingdom of God is in *our* midst. The Catechumenate is an apprenticeship of sorts in which people respond to Jesus’ invitation to “come and see” where and how he lives in the Kingdom of God. It leads us to hear his message –the Good News, and see how it transforms life. It leads us to how Jesus lives in the Church, and how the people of the church live in the Kingdom of God.

People who **hear this** have to be asking, how?! There are several answers. First, the kingdom is where he is. Second, the kingdom is in the teaching that we must die in order to live –participation in the “Paschal Mystery.” Third, life in the kingdom is offered to everyone. Fourth, the kingdom belongs to the poor. Fifth, and most importantly, Jesus invites sinners –the kingdom is not reserved only for those who behave themselves; it is not a reward for being righteous, for being lawful, or even moral and just. Sixth, once you give yourself to Christ and enter the dying and rising of your own journey of the Paschal Mystery, there will be signs in your life that will amaze you! And seventh, though the Church is not the kingdom of heaven, the reign of God is found in her midst.

Thus, to know Christ, is in fact to know his community, just as it had been during his lifetime. During his lifetime his mission was not to free the world from all evils –that remains the church’s work, his mission was to free us from slavery of sin; from missing the mark, which divine love sets as our destiny. This is why the kingdom is not something to be studied but a way of life to be lived. We live the life of the Spirit so as to remove the evils of the world, that, like Jesus’ prayer, God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Hear this! This is our faith!

Something Else

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 46	Yahweh, king of the world
Isaiah 61:1-2	the message / mission of the Messiah
Daniel 7:9-14	a vision of God in heaven
Matthew 5:3	the reign of God belongs to the poor
Matthew 13:1-51	parables of the Kingdom of Heaven
Matthew 16:13-19	Peter and the keys to the kingdom
Luke 4:16-22	Jesus proclaims the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy
Luke 6:20	the reign of God belongs to the poor
Luke 9:1-6	Jesus sends apostles to proclaim the kingdom
Luke 12:22-34	seek the Kingdom first; all that you need will be given
Luke 17:20-21	the Kingdom is already in your midst
Romans 14:17	the kingdom is joy, peace, and righteousness in the Spirit
1 Corinthians 15:14	definitive proof of faith
Colossians 1:9-20	share the lot of God's holy people; God's rescue in Christ
Revelations	the earthy kingdom of those ransomed

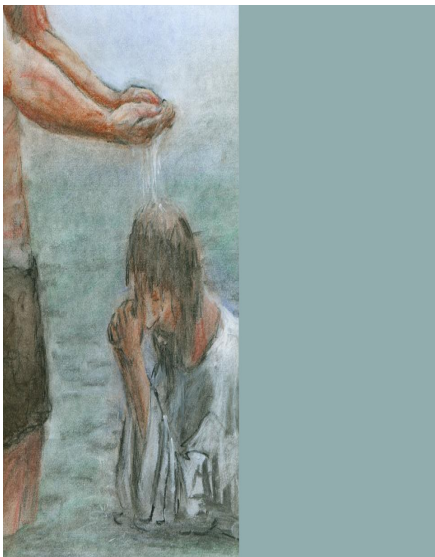
CATECHISM

<i>the mysteries of Christ's life,</i>	521-540
<i>"the kingdom of God is at hand,"</i>	541-542
<i>the proclamation of the Kingdom of God,</i>	543-546
<i>the signs of the Kingdom of God,</i>	547-550
<i>"the Keys of the Kingdom of God,"</i>	551-553
<i>a foretaste of the Kingdom,</i>	554-556
<i>Jesus' ascent to Jerusalem,</i>	557-558
<i>Jesus' messianic entrance into Jerusalem,</i>	559-560
<i>Christ already reigns through the Church,</i>	668-670
<i>Until all things are subject to him,</i>	671-672
<i>the glorious advent of Christ,</i>	673-674
<i>the Church –instituted by Christ,</i>	763-766
<i>the Church –revealed by the Holy Spirit,</i>	767-768
<i>the Church –perfected in glory,</i>	769
<i>"thy Kingdom come,"</i>	2816-2821
<i>"thy will be done on earth as it is in,"</i>	2822-2827

PRAYER

Sacramentary, Opening Prayer, *Votive Mass of the Holy Eucharist*,

Father,
you have brought to fulfillment the work of our redemption
through the Easter mystery of Christ your Son.
May we who faithfully proclaim his death and resurrection
in these sacramental signs
experience the constant growth of your salvation in our lives.



Sacramentary, Opening Prayer,
Baptism of the Lord,

Father in heaven,
you revealed Christ as your Son
by the voice
that spoke over the waters of the Jordan.
May all who share
in the sonship of Christ
follow in his path of service to man,
and reflect the glory of his kingdom
even to the ends of the earth,
for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Sacramentary, Preface, *Christ the King*

Father,
you anointed Jesus Christ, your only son,
with the oil of gladness
as the eternal priest and universal king.
As priest he offered his life on the altar of the cross
and redeemed the human race
by this one perfect sacrifice of peace.
As king he claims dominion over all creation,
that he may present to you, his almighty Father,
an eternal and universal kingdom:
a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

Rite of Christian Initiation, Renunciation of False Worship , *no. 7*

By the breath of your mouth, O Lord,
drive away the spirits of evil.
Command them to depart,
For your kingdom has come among us.

Rite of Christian Initiation, Prayer Over the Elect, *no. 135 B*

“Father of love and power,
it is your will to establish everything in Christ
and to draw us into his all-embracing love.
Guide the elect of your Church:
strengthen them in their vocation,
and build them into the kingdom of your Son,
and seal them with the Spirit of your promise.

Rite of Christian Initiation, Prayer Over the Water, *no. 222 A*

We ask you Father, with your Son
to send the Holy Spirit upon the waters of this font.
May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism
rise also with him to newness of life.

INPRINT

Christ the Self-Emptying of God, Lucien Richard
Paulist Press, 1997, ISBN 0-8091-3668-6

Luke, New Testament Message 5, Eugene LaVerdiere, S.S.S.
Michael Glazier, Inc., 1980, ISBN 0-89453-128-X

(email request to Catholic@CatholicClasses.org of the following)

OS1B1 What Did Christ Teach
OS1B2 The Kingdom of God
OS1B3 The Paschal Mystery

QUESTIONS

How does the Kingdom of God on earth show God's love for his people?

Why are good-deeds such an essential part of accepting Jesus' invitation to the Kingdom?

In Christ, we have the secret of the reign of God. What is that secret?

How can the Paschal mystery inspire faith in God's never-ending love?
How can it affect our actions?

Whenever we gather in Christ's name, he is among us.
How do you experience this in your everyday life?

By the waters of baptism, Jesus begins his ministry.
How do the waters of your baptism send you out to minister?

Jesus gave to Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven.
What does this mean to us today?

Authority in the church is always seen as service.
How do the pastors of the church guide your journey of faith?

How do you make (more) room for Christ in your life?

LET US PRAY

Oh, God,
we know that you are with us
and that you behold all we say and do.
Now grant, that by the light of your Holy Spirit,
we might be attentive to our journey of faith
and loving toward others.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.