Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace
Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

November 22, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

"The Servant King and the Judgment of Love"

We have come to the end of our Liturgical Cycle. This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe. This solemnity calls us to reflect on the kind of kingship Jesus manifested and how He reigned as a king who truly saves and serves. On this occasion, we hear or read in the Gospel about the Judgment of the Nations. As Jesus sits on His glorious throne, He separates the nations like a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats. His judgment is based on the good or bad deeds a person does or fails to do for his fellow human being.

Jesus manifested His kingship in the true spirit of service. He led His disciples, taught them, and showed them how to truly follow Him. Unlike a worldly king who would just sit on a throne and issue commands, Jesus was nailed to His throne, the Cross. Unlike a worldly king who would wear expensive garments, Jesus wore a linen garment just enough to cover His body. Unlike a worldly king who would simply dictate and command, Jesus acted in the spirit of service and love, obeying His Heavenly Father even unto death.

In the Gospel of John, we recall the events at the Last Supper. What did Jesus do? He took a towel, tied it around His waist, poured water into a basin, and began washing the disciples' feet, then dried them with the towel. What a remarkable way to teach His disciples to serve with humility, love, and care. And the greatest act of His service was offering Himself on the cross for everyone to witness and for our salvation.

Our King, Jesus Christ, invites us to look more deeply into ourselves and into God's goodness toward us, and to share that goodness selflessly with everyone around us. Yes, to all! How can this be manifested? By feeding the hungry, giving water to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, caring for the ill, and visiting those imprisoned. These are the measures by which our King will judge us. At the end of the day, what matters to our Lord are His words, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me."

As we gather to celebrate this great solemnity with reverence and honor to Jesus, our King, let us make every effort to heed His call to service. Just as He offered Himself for all of us, so should we share that offering with all. Knowing Him as our Ruler, let us be guided by His words and His ways. He never hesitated to tend to anyone in need, even on a Sabbath. He never surrendered, even to the point of risking His life. He did all this for us because He loves and cares for us.

On Judgment Day, Jesus' sovereignty will prevail. When that day and time comes, may we join Him and His angels in heaven.

On this Thanksgiving Day, may we give praise and honor to our King for His unconditional love for us. He brought us all together to share His goodness and grace. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued love and support for the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace. Your gifts of stewardship are truly remarkable, and may the Lord repay you all for your kindness and generosity. A blessed and spirit-filled Thanksgiving Day to all!

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual