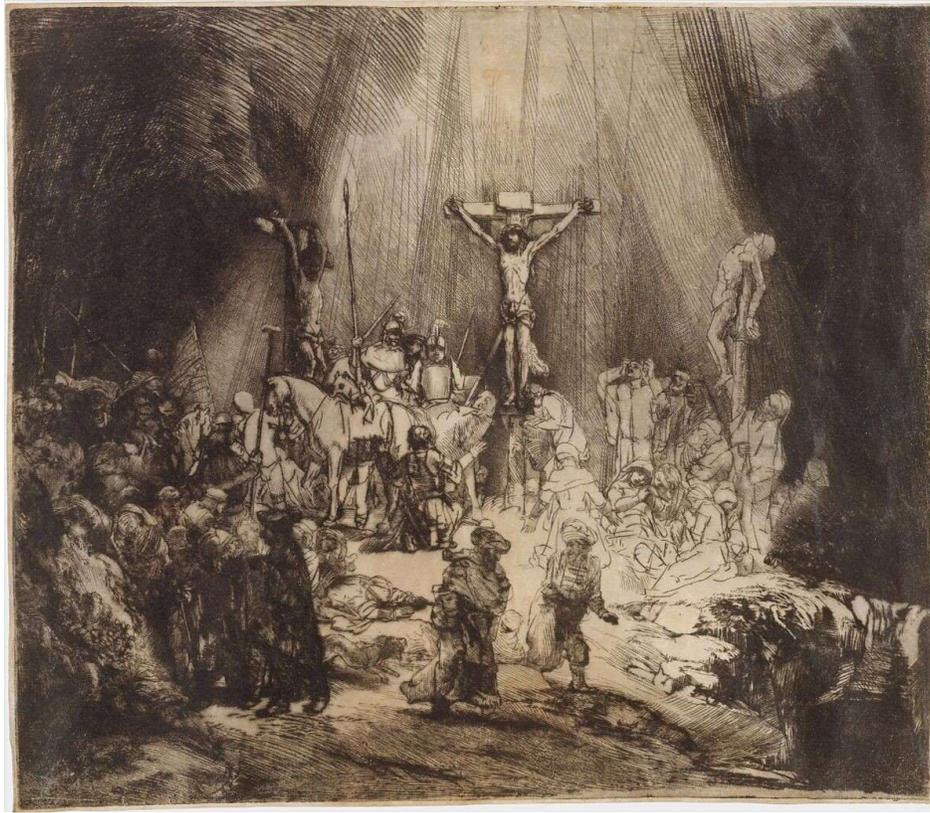


# Bringing it Home For Sunday, November 30, 2025

By Allison de Kanel



We Christians believe that Jesus Christ is King. We celebrate his kingship today.

The Bible tells us that Jesus was the King of the Jews, because his mother Mary's husband was descended from King David. But the Jewish people were not free. The Roman Empire was in charge, and the Romans didn't want any King of the Jews around. When Jesus was little, his family had to go to Egypt because of the danger.

Eventually Jesus and his family returned home. Jesus grew up and began teaching and healing people. He became famous, and when he went to Jerusalem for the Passover feast, people cheered and called him king. The authorities were jealous of Jesus and afraid the people would rebel, so they turned Jesus over to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, who condemned Jesus to die. Pilate was afraid, too.

In today's Bible story Jesus was executed. This is a sad story. It is hard to listen to it. Everyone made fun of Jesus. The only person who treated him respectfully as a king was one of the other condemned men.

We know how the story turned out. Jesus died, and rose from the dead. He is King of everything and everyone. You can't draw a map showing his kingdom, but it's easy to find. His kingdom is in your heart.

Let's pray. Dear Jesus, rule over my heart and help me to be faithful in serving you and spreading your kingdom. Amen.

**Today's Gospel:** Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are

doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

- Artwork: Christ Crucified between the Two Thieves: The Three Crosses, Rembrandt (Rembrandt van Rijn) (Dutch, Leiden 1606–1669 Amsterdam), 1653, Drypoint printed on vellum. From the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY.