

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

ROYAL CROWNS

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

Going to the Father (John 17:1-11)

With chapter 17 John concludes Jesus' farewell discourse with the disciples over the last supper before Jesus goes out to face his arrest. In this chapter Jesus looks forward with confidence to returning to the Father. The key word for John in this passage is 'glory'. What John expresses in this farewell discourse Luke symbolises through the ascension which links the close of Luke's Gospel with the opening of the Acts of the Apostles. The ascension, or Jesus' going to the Father, is seen as his enthronement. The ascension is also kept as the feast of the enthronement of Christ as King.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage concerning the enthronement of Christ as King is *royal crowns*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (John 17:1, 10-11)

Jesus looked up to heaven and said,
'Father, the hour has come;
glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you.
All mine are yours, and yours are mine;
and I have been glorified in them.
And now I am no longer in the world,
but they are in the world,
and I am coming to you.
Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me,
so that they may be one, as we are one.'

Gospel prayer

Risen and ascended Christ,
we proclaim you to be our King.
Give us grace,
that we may serve you
all the days of our lives;
for you are the King of glory,
now and always.
Amen.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on Jesus' teaching about the future. Judas has now left the last supper and the events of the betrayal, trial, and crucifixion have been triggered:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- how do you understand the word 'glory' that is so central to this passage?
- what do you make of Jesus' prayer 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son'?
- how do you link John's narrative with Luke 24: 50-53 and Acts 1: 6-11?
- how helpful do you find the idea of the enthronement of Christ as King?
- what does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore further how John develops the idea of glory in his Gospel

- John 1: 14
- John 2: 11
- John 11: 35-40

Explore the idea of glory in the Old Testament

- 1 Samuel 4: 21
- Psalm 26: 8

Exploring online

- explore glory in John's Gospel
- explore images of Christ the King in art
- explore ways of making crowns

Drawing on experience

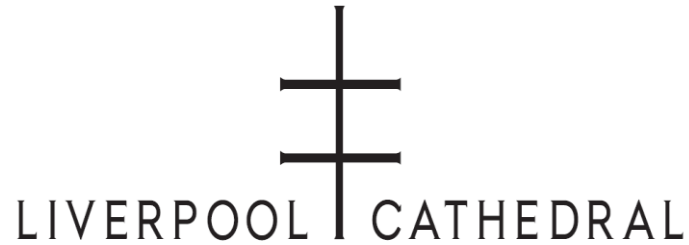
- what is your experience of depictions of the Ascension of Christ?
- what is your experience of seeing crowns and crown jewels?
- what is your experience of Jesus reigning in your life?

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) SUNDAY 24 MAY 2020

Creating and making

- make a crown to place prominently in your home
- make a poster displaying many crowns with the title 'we celebrate the enthronement of Christ as King'
- draw together images of royal crowns from across the world , including images of the crowned Christ
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of glory or enthronement

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) SUNDAY 24 MAY 2020



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



The scripture quotations contained in these materials are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and is used with permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © Leslie J. Francis, 2020
Canon Theologian Liverpool Cathedral
with sponsorship and support from
St Christopher's College Trust
St Mary's Centre, Wales