

## **Pastoral Reflection: Feast of Christ, King of the Universe**

**Luke 23,25-43**

### **The Lord of Life**

Have you ever felt that the world has turned on you? In these times of despair, were you able to help someone else in need? In this feast of Christ the King, Jesus shows us one can help others even in the darkest hour. When death stared him in the face, Jesus reached out to forgive another.

Is death an end or an opportunity? The story of the "good" thief shows us his leap of faith; it also shows us Christ's willingness to help up to the very end. Both the thief and Jesus show an openness to each other that turned death into an opportunity.

The immediate judgement of the person after death asks the same question: Are you open to God's grace and mercy? Or, have you despaired in the face of death? Is death an opportunity or an end? Death is a time to reach out to God and others. It is the existential step that shows us what we believe as the Communion of Saints.

Even in times of discouragement, we can reach out to the Lord and others to share grief, feelings of rejection, and despair. When we reach out, we take the first step away from that which we share. We move toward life, away from death. The Good Thief made such a step, even in the face of a doubting crowd. And the Lord responded with life.