A NOTE TO PARENTS

The last Sunday of the Church's year is known as the Feast of Christ the King. We celebrate Christ's Lordship over the whole world, reminding ourselves that his victory, and his Kingdom, are based not on power but on weakness—not on show of force but on utter self-abandonment—not on doing violence to his enemies but on disarming death itself, and evil itself. And the end of the Church's year brings us right round to its new beginning, for *"Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."* In the first season of the new Church year, we will be remembering Jesus' first coming as a child, in great weakness, and looking for his coming again in power and glory. As your family begins to get ready for Christmas, you can help your child feel this eager hope for Jesus' coming again, into our lives as a grown-up Savior, and into the world as King and Judge. Many Christmas carols give voice to the first of these hopes, while the hope of Christ's coming again finds expression in the Advent hymns that will be sung in church over the next few weeks. Try singing some of these hymns with your children, along with the more familiar Christmas carols.

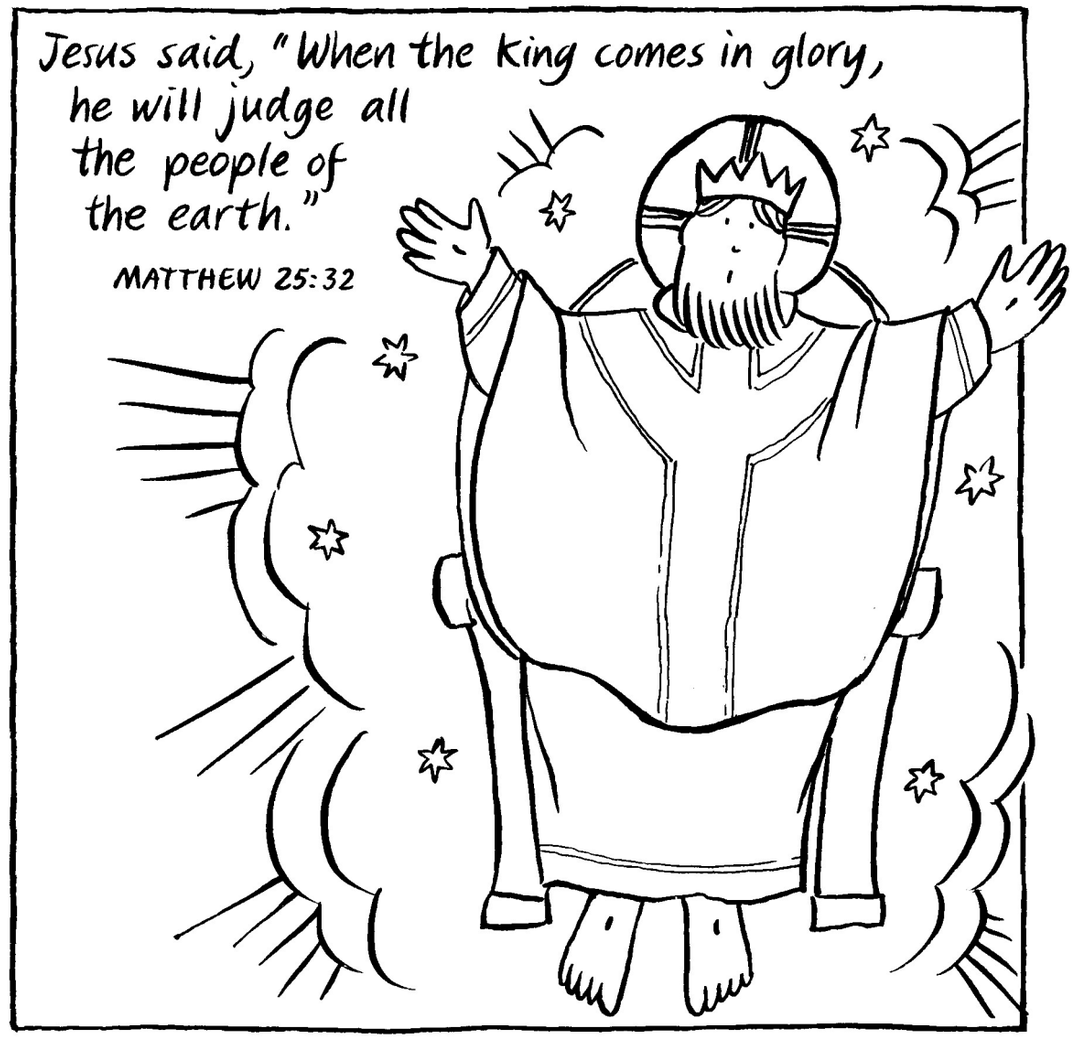
We wait in hope for Jesus to come and establish his Kingdom of justice and peace, but in today's Gospel, in an unforgettable image, Jesus reminds us that the Kingdom rests in our hands as well as his. We think of Jesus as the One who helps the helpless, but today he tells us that he *is* the helpless. When we help the helpless we are helping him, not in the sense of joining in his work, but in the much more direct, terrifying sense of offering our service of love and devotion to his very own, helpless humanity, suffering in the suffering of his helpless brothers and sisters. Take time to really turn over this idea with your child. As you get ready for Christmas, go shopping, or drive around town, remind each other that every marginalized, homeless, or sad-looking person you see on the street, is Christ. We are preparing gifts for our family and friends to celebrate Jesus' birthday—how shall we give a present to Jesus himself? Let your child think it over, and make some suggestions; then be prepared to make a real commitment as a family to offer your love to Christ himself this Christmas.

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Year A
PROPER 29
TRACKS 1 and 2



JESUS SAID,



Jesus said that whatever we do to other people, we are doing to him.

Jesus said that when he comes to be our judge, he will care most of all about whether we have helped other people, and cared for them.



Draw a halo with a cross in it around the head of each person in the picture, to show that what we do to them, we are doing to Jesus.