

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

The Feast of Christ the King. Each year this feast draws the present liturgical year to a conclusion and prepares us for the coming of the Advent Season. Advent means: "He comes." He is coming. To us. Again. We celebrate the birth of our Lord and Messiah each year on the twenty-fifth of December. To be able to give this great feast its proper due we go to great lengths to prepare ourselves.

There are lights. Lights everywhere. All kinds of lights. Single white lights in windows. Arrays of lights on our trees and bushes and on our homes. We will decorate our inside Christmas Tree with lights as well. It is the season of light. Jesus is the Light of the World. We have lived in darkness for so long. Finally, the Light has come to us. Finally, we are able to see. See what? See what life is truly about. See what makes all the difference in the world. See what is true and beautiful and good on display right before our eyes.

We erect Christmas creches and host Live Nativities to bring to life the message of Christmas. Our hearts are moved to ponder anew the story of His birth. Why in such poverty? Why away from home? Why so unprotected? Why without so much that we consider necessary for living in this world?

And there is food. All manner of food. Cooking rises to a very high level. Baking soars to former heights. Delicious food and choice wine. As Isaiah the prophet prophesied. We gather with those we love and with strangers too. We open our homes so that there will be a place for those without family or loved ones present. These seem like such little things, almost unnoticeable. But we all know that it is in the little things that the truth so often emerges in unmistakable fashion. God in the ordinary. Our ordinary. God with us. Emmanuel. O come, O come Emmanuel! We even sing this. But let us do one more thing to enter into the Advent Season. Let us decide to make ourselves the best present of our own hearts to Our Lord this Christmas. As pure as possible. As clean as possible. As committed as possible. As dedicated as possible. Once upon a time we were little and that is how we thought and what we did. Why not now? It is actually possible for us with God's gracious assistance. Did you realize that? The question of the week.