



Gospel Jn 18:33-37

You say that I am a king.

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week marks the end of the liturgical year. Next week, with the first week of Advent, we begin the new liturgical cycle. It is fitting that the Church concludes the liturgical year with the celebration of Christ the King. The conversation between Jesus and Pilate displays a lot of word play on the part of Jesus and quite a lot of confusion on the part of Pilate. The confusion stems from different perceptions of what it means to be a king. For Pilate, part of the most powerful political and military rule in the ancient world, the idea of a king was a threat. Claiming kingship was claiming authority and power that would inevitably lead to challenging the authority and power of Rome and, more directly, its representative in Palestine – Pilate. Jesus, of course, had a completely different idea about ushering in a kingdom. He does indeed declare that he is a king and that is what leads us to today's feast of Christ the King. However, his intention is not to claim a position of power and authority. When we think back to Jesus' teachings about the kingdom of God, we recall that he declares the people of highest status – the first – in the kingdom to be the lowliest of this world. It is the poor, the sick, the outcast, the children and the widows who will hold the highest places in the kingdom of God. In a kingdom like that, what does it mean to declare oneself king? The confusion about what it means to be a king that is captured in this interaction between Jesus and Pilate is the same confusion that we saw among the disciples as they came to terms with exactly what it means to be the Messiah.

The Living Word

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year B 21 November 2021

First Reading Dn 7:13-14

His sovereignty is eternal.

I gazed into the visions of the night.
And I saw, coming on the clouds of
heaven,
one like a son of man.
He came to the one of great age
and was led into his presence.
On him was conferred sovereignty,
glory and kingship,
and men of all peoples, nations and
languages became his servants.
His sovereignty is an eternal
sovereignty
which shall never pass away,
nor will his empire be destroyed.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 92:1-2. 5. R.v.1

**(R.) The Lord is king;
he is robed in majesty.**

1. The Lord is king, with majesty
enrobed;
the Lord has robed himself with might,
he has girded himself with power. (R)
2. The world you made firm, not to be
moved;
your throne has stood firm from of old.
From all eternity, O Lord, you are. (R)

3. Truly your decrees are to be
trusted.
Holiness is fitting to your house,
O Lord, until the end of time. (R)

Second Reading Rv 1:5-8

*The ruler of the kings of the earth ... made us a line of kings,
priests to serve his God.*

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel Acclamation Mk 11:9, 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Blessed is he who inherits the
kingdom of David our Father;**

**blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord.**

Alleluia!

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