

focus on sunday

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE 21st November 2021

Jesus' kingship is the kingship of one who is dedicated to his Father. He lives and dies for the truth. In his death and resurrection Jesus is enthroned in the glory of his Father. This is the kingship we celebrate: one who has passed through the worst of human life to a life and joy that is eternal.

“Everyone who belongs to the truth listen to my voice.”



A big thing in life is where you are from. We say 'your accent betrays you'. Sometimes we judge totally on where people are from. Pilate was the same with Jesus. With all he knew of him and heard, the miracles and the speeches – where are you from? Are you a king really? What sort is your kingdom? Pilate was intrigued always with Jesus and so are we. Our Christian life is getting to know Jesus more, and taking part in his mission. The type of person he was. That he came from God and from humanity. He speaks of the best of God and the best of us, the best of heaven and the best of earth. He is worth our following. Our role – vocation/called to be like him. Our mission is a calling to live like him in love and service.

FROM ABOVE

There is the 'from above' in Jesus and much of John's gospel stresses the divinity of Christ. He doesn't look very divine but he does look very human. In the human is the divine. So we could be like him. We become like him by reading about his life and living like he did.

King is a strange feast...he never wanted it. But he accepted what that happened to him. He took it on out of love. What sort of king do we meet? One of truth, justice, compassion and love. The defender of the poor. The King who prays.

A good ending of one church year to begin another. King and servant. We'll see more of what it's all like in the weeks of December. Meantime we want to live in this reign of God and pray and live – your kingdom come.

Donal Neary SJ. (editor, Sacred Heart Messenger)



For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
All bow for following three lines:
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice by which the human race is reconciled to you, we humbly pray that your Son himself may bestow on all nations the gifts of unity and peace. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in his heavenly Kingdom. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 92:1-2.5

R. The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

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 Apocalypse 1:5-8

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

GOSEL John 18:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

'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.'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and prince of peace: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us.... Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us;

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Daniel 7: 13 - 14

A reading from the prophet Daniel.

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 ever be destroyed.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.