

Read

Daniel 7:13-14

Psalm 93:1, 1-2, 5

Revelation 1:5-8

John 18:33b-37

LIVING THE WORD

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 25, 2018



REFLECTION

Today is the last Sunday in Ordinary Time. This Sunday is always celebrated as the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. In the second book of Samuel, we are reminded that Jesus' lineage is traced to King David. King David's anointing as the king of Israel gave great hope to the Israelites who needed a hero. In the Gospel, the soldiers jeered at Jesus, they hung on the Cross a plaque which said: "The King of the Jews" (John 19:19). As Jesus was dying on the Cross, a prisoner next to him was overcome by Jesus' suffering and pleads for him to "remember me [the prisoner] when you [Jesus] come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). This reconciling before both died on their crosses reminds all of us that it is never too late for a conversion of the heart especially when we hear Jesus' confident promise, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Trusting in this final act of mercy, we must pray in gratitude for Jesus' gift of humility and service.



ACTION

Imagine you receive a letter, an email, or a text from Jesus. What does it say? As your spiritual guide, what do you think Jesus would say to you that would inspire you to be like him—reconciling and loving? In order to get in touch with this experience, write a letter, email, or text to Jesus. What do you need to hear from Jesus? Read this out loud each week and feel Jesus with you.



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? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ In what ways is Jesus a leader, a King, or a guide for you?
- ❖ What does the title "Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe" mean to you?



November 25, 2018

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

LECTIONARY #161B

Daniel 7:13-14

Psalm 93:1, 1-2, 5

Revelation 1:5-8

John 18:33b-37

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

Today's readings bring us to the Passion of Christ as Jesus is on trial before Pilate. Discuss the kingship of Jesus, as this is not what we understand when we speak of royalty. While Jesus does not identify himself as a king in response to Pilate's question, Jesus does admit to having a kingdom. His Kingdom, though, does not belong to the world. He only came to testify to the truth of his Kingdom, a kingdom in which the last will be first, and the first will be the servant of all.

Q FOCUS: *Jesus is king, over the entire world and over our entire lives.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

On the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the Church celebrates Christ as King of the Universe. This is a fitting reminder that at the end of our own days, we will meet Jesus as King, and be judged according to his truth. The solemnity helps us remember that Jesus is a very different sort of king than human rulers often are. Though Christ has supreme authority as King, he does not wield it for his own benefit or power. Next Sunday, we begin the new liturgical year with Advent, preparing for a newborn king that turns our expectations inside out.

Church Teaching Connection

"Finally, the People of God shares in the *royal* office of Christ. He exercises his kingship by drawing all men to himself through his death and Resurrection. Christ, King and Lord of the universe, made himself the servant of all, for he came 'not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.' For the Christian, 'to reign is to serve him,' particularly when serving 'the poor and the suffering, in whom the Church recognizes the image of her poor and suffering founder.' The People of God fulfills its royal dignity by a life in keeping with its vocation to serve with Christ" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 786; see also John 12:32; Matthew 20:28; *Lumen gentium*, 8 and 36).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 18:33b-37

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

Pilate said to Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?" Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not

belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

In this Sunday's Gospel, Pontius Pilate accuses Jesus of being the King of the Jews.

► What do you think Pilate meant when he accused Jesus of this? What did he think Jesus was doing?

Pilate represented the Roman leadership. Obviously, they would not want any groups of people under their leadership to elect kings of their own since it might undermine their leadership. Jesus' power scared them because they thought he might challenge their authority.

- How did Jesus answer Pilate's question?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said that he had a kingdom?
- Why didn't Pilate understand what Jesus meant?
- What qualities do you think Pilate thought a king should have?
- What qualities do you think Jesus thought a king should have?

It seemed that Pilate and Jesus had two very different ideas about kings. Pilate thought that kings were all about getting power and authority for themselves, whereas Jesus thought that kings were meant for other things. He says that he was born in order to testify to the truth.

► How did Jesus testify to the truth?

Jesus says that people who belong to the truth listen to his voice.

► How can people belong to the truth?

► How might you describe the "truth" that Jesus is talking about?

In the Our Father, we pray "thy kingdom come." When we say this, we are praying that the Kingdom Jesus speaks about, the one that has been promised by his Father, will become a reality. In this Kingdom, there will be justice and peace, sins will be forgiven, there will be no sickness, and no one will be poor. We are all charged with working toward making this Kingdom a reality. Catholic social teaching encourages Kingdom living. We are called to respect the dignity of all humans, respect the rights and responsibilities of workers, have a preferential love for the poor, be good stewards of creation, and live in solidarity with one another. Name a person who you think works toward God's Kingdom.

► How has this person helped to build the Kingdom here on earth?

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 74.

Have you been truthful?

Are you willing to stand like Jesus and empty yourself of hostility and anger against those who convict you?

Act on the Word

Testify to the Truth

You will need construction paper, coloring materials, scissors, and tape to lead this activity.

Be creative and think about other props or costume options you might have available, as well. Today's Gospel depicts the trial of Jesus before Pontius Pilate. Trial scenes are often depicted in television shows and movies. Divide the teens into small groups and tell each group to prepare a skit showing how this "trial" might be shown in a movie or TV show. Encourage them to be creative. They might set the trial in modern times, incorporate other characters from the Bible as "witnesses," and so on. Allow them to create props and costumes, and then have them perform their skits for one another. When they are finished, reflect on the different skits. Did anyone understand these events in a new way?

New Year's Resolutions

You will need paper or journals and writing materials to lead this activity.

Distribute paper or journals and writing materials, and invite the teens to spend some time thinking over the course of the past liturgical year (from Advent until now). What big things happened in their lives? How did they respond? When did they do the right thing? When did they fail to do the right thing? After taking some time to think, invite each teen to jot down a few resolutions for the new liturgical year. Invite those who are willing to share what they wrote. Talk about how these resolutions help us get even better at building God's Kingdom.

Closing Prayer

*Lord Jesus Christ,
King of every nation and of heaven,
you show us the truth that power resides in
the Cross.*

*Continue to reveal to us your glory
by helping us to reject ourselves
and to find redemption in our suffering.
May we come to share
in the fullness of your glory,
where you live and reign with the Father in the
unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.