

Sunday Message

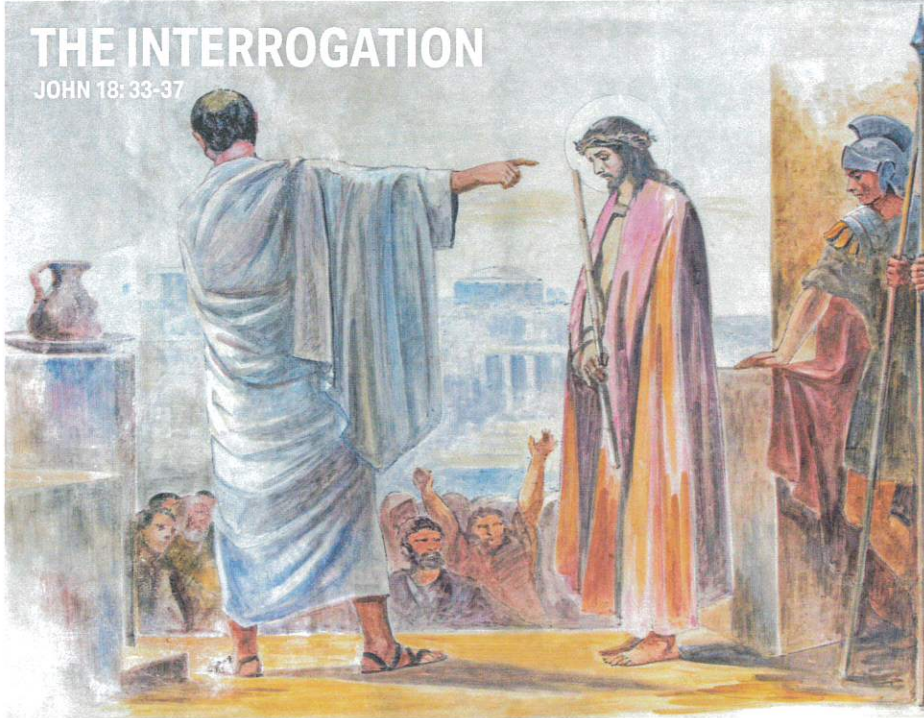
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

THE WORD

Year B • 24 November 2024 • Psalter Week 2

THE INTERROGATION

JOHN 18: 33-37



The modern fresco Jesus before Pilate in the atrium of church Església de la Concepció

We have been used to the readings of Mark's Gospel up to now but for our feast day today, we turn to John's Gospel. To place today's scene into context, Jesus has been arrested and is handed over to Pilate for questioning.

At this stage of the interview, Peter has already denied Jesus three times, and this is a rather tense encounter between Pilate and Jesus. While Mark's Gospel has given us some beautiful descriptive accounts of the preaching, teaching and healing ministry of Jesus, John's Gospel focuses more on the kingship of Jesus, or his divine nature. Jesus turns to Pilate and states that 'his kingdom is not of this world.... But my kingdom is from another place.' Pilate in turn finds no case against Jesus and doesn't see him as a political threat. This Gospel provides the basis for how we might define or describe the kingdom in our own language. Harold A. Buetow uses the following phrase which is helpful in our own reflections: Jesus speaks of a Kingdom that was confined to no time in history such as Pilate's was, but is eternal; a Kingdom that knew no national boundaries, such as Pilate knew, but is universal; a Kingdom that wasn't to provide only convenience and protection, but holiness and grace. ■

REFLECT

A lot of people you meet this time of year say it's their favourite time of year. LED lights, decorations and the Christmas tree form part and parcel of the celebrations that are to come. There is talk about the family gatherings that will happen and the general feeling of tenderness and friendship that becomes more evident as people gather.

When this great Feast of Christ the King is presented to us, it often signals the start of

preparations for the coming of Jesus. What does that preparation involve?

We're trying in some way to gain a glimpse of what it means to bring the kingdom of God to this world. Today, the readings describe Christ's kingdom as one of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace. This ideal is not something we look to the future for. This ideal is to be worked for in the present. The Gospel tells us how we are to promote God's

DO

The next time you attend Mass, concentrate more fully on the word of God (first reading, psalm, second reading and Gospel). Allow the words to affect you and take one message home with you, something that will help you in your relationship with God.



SAY

"He is generous even to exhaustion; and what is most wonderful is, that He gives Himself thus entirely, not once only, but every day, if we wish it. Every fresh Communion is a new gift which Jesus Christ makes of Himself."

(St. Ignatius Loyola)

LEARN

The Lord is my Shepherd; nothing shall I want
He will lead me to green pastures and give me rest
He guides me on right paths.
(Psalm 23)

kingdom among us. It comes whenever justice is done for the hungry, the thirsty, and the oppressed. Maybe in modern day language, we can say that the kingdom of God is among us when we promote our care for the planet. To behave in this way is to imitate the Shepherd-King himself who is presented in our Gospels as one who rescues from situations of alienation, who feeds, gives rest, heals and makes strong. Today is a celebration of God's kingdom among us. ■

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.

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.

COLLECT

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, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

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 be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 92 (93):1-2, 5

Response:

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

- The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed;
the Lord has robed himself with might,
he has girded himself with power. (R.)
- 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.)

- 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

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.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**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.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next 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.**

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.
Amen.

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.
Amen.

To regard the Mass as an obligation, a chore,
and a boring one at that, to be done on a
Sunday, is a hideous travesty of the truth. Mass
may indeed be boring, and the dear priest's
sermon an affliction to be patiently endured (or,
of course, an intellectual treat to be discussed
throughout the week), but we do not go to Mass
for entertainment... To be taken to the self-
offering of Jesus to the Father is what being a
Catholic is about, it is what the Mass is about.

Sister Wendy Beckett