

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

From all eternity, O Lord, you are!

Psalm

'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, who is, who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Second Reading

'Mine is not a kingdom of this world.'

Gospel

'All who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

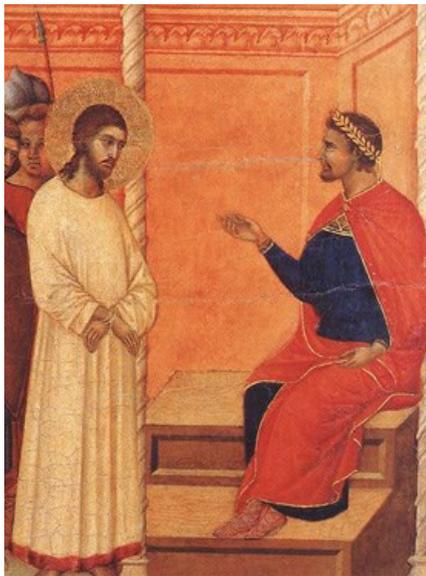
Gospel

Almighty and merciful God,
you break the power of evil
and make all things new
in your Son Jesus Christ, the King of the universe.
May all in heaven and earth acclaim your glory
and never cease to praise you.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:
Daniel 7: 13–14; Psalm 92 (93); Apocalypse 1: 5–8; John 18: 33–37

Duccio di Buoninsegna, Christ before Pilate (detail)



'Yes I am a
King.
I was born
for this,
I came into
the world
for this.'

If you'd like to receive Prego by email each week, sign up at
www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com

ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



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

'Mine is not a kingdom of this world'

The Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, brings the Church's year to a close, and calls us to celebrate again Jesus's victory over suffering and death. As servants, we offer all that we are, and invite him to reign within our hearts, so that we can play our part in bringing God's truth, love, justice and peace to the world.

Foretelling the coming of Jesus, the **First Reading** describes Daniel's vision of a 'son of man' coming on the clouds of heaven to be crowned King, with everlasting sovereignty, ruling over an empire that will never be destroyed. Such is his glory that people of all nations and languages become his servants.

The **Psalm** rejoices in the glory of the Lord – the *king with majesty enrobed*. Through the verses, we are told of the eternal nature of the Lord's power and the trust we can place in him.

Again in the **Second Reading**, Jesus is described as *coming on the clouds* and as *ruler of the kings of the earth*. The depth of his love for us has been shown by his sacrifice on the cross, and brings us ever closer to the God *who is, who was, and who is to come*.

In the **Gospel**, we witness the scene in which Pilate asks Jesus the question, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' In his reply, Jesus speaks of a kingdom in which those who seek the truth listen to his voice and follow his ways.

This week, we ask God for the grace to open our hearts and minds to the needs of those who do not yet know his voice. We pray that by the service of our lives we will draw others to his loving embrace.

Opening Prayer

Almighty, ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, 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.

First Reading Daniel 7: 13–14

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 and women 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.

As I settle in my place of prayer, I take a few slow deep breaths, mindful of the sensations within my body as I begin to relax. I consciously set down any concerns or worries – entrusting them to the Lord who waits patiently beside me. I ask the Lord to be with me as I begin my prayer.

I slowly read through the text a couple of times. With each reading, I notice words or phrases that strike me, and allow my attention to linger on them.

This style of writing perhaps prompts me to create a picture in my mind of the *one like a son of man, coming on the clouds of heaven*. I may find it helpful to capture on paper any images that come to me in my imagination, and to notice the thoughts and feelings which arise as I draw.

I return again to the text. How do I respond as I ponder the description of this king whose sovereignty shall never pass away, whose empire will never be destroyed?

As I sit quietly and let my thoughts unfold, perhaps I write down my own words to describe the Jesus I now know as my king, the one I am called to serve in today's world. It may also be that new images come to mind, and I put them down alongside my earlier ones.

I look back over the words, images, thoughts and feelings which have arisen for me, and talk to Jesus from the depths of my heart – confident in the knowledge that, although he is my king, I can speak to him just as I would a dear friend.

When the time feels right, I begin to draw my time of prayer to a close, praising and thanking God for all the blessings I have received.

Gospel John 18: 33–37

‘Are you the King of the Jews?’ Pilate asked.
Jesus replied, ‘Do you say 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 testimony to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.’

Before turning to the Gospel reading, I take a few moments to settle and notice how I am feeling. I ask the Holy Spirit to help me open my ears, my mind, and my heart, as I begin my prayer.

After reading the Gospel a number of times, I may like to put the text aside and enter the scene in my imagination. Perhaps I position myself in the corner of the room from where I can clearly see Jesus and Pilate. What strikes me about their appearance, their words, the tone of their voice, their gestures?

Perhaps I am drawn to explore the exchange more deeply by being Pilate, and seeing Jesus through his eyes. What impact do Jesus's words have on him? Does taking this perspective give me a different insight into Jesus the King – *the one who came into the world ... to bear testimony to the truth*?

I might then also want to imagine myself in Jesus's place. What do I hear in his voice? What is he feeling as he faces the consequences of having come into the world for our sakes?

Maybe now I hear again Jesus's words – perhaps speaking directly to me – ‘**You**’ (add my name) ‘*who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.*’ I take some time to reflect on what Jesus means by this.

In what ways do I live my life ‘*on the side of truth*’? Do I sometimes struggle to know what the truth is?

I take some time to speak to the Lord about what is in my heart and mind, as one friend to another.

Slowly bringing my time of prayer to a close, I ask the Lord to grant me the graces I need to help me live according to his truth.