

11/18/21 St. Anne's Bible Study John 18:33-37

(Last Pentecost B -- Christ the King)

Opening Prayer/Collect for Christ the King: Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*



The liturgical calendar

Ending of sorts

Omega

First reading on Christ the King Sunday: Daniel 7:9-10,13-14 ⁹As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

The Book of Daniel *one like a human being* (one in human form, one like a son of man)

Early Christians and the text from Daniel

Typology

John 18:33-38

³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "*My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.*" ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "*You say that 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.*" [³⁸Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him.]"

On the surface, it is Jesus who is on trial. But when we dig deeper?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴***And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.***

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶***From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*** ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.-- John chapter 1.

"The Word" is a prisoner standing before Pilate. *Are you the king of the Jews?*

Political people/political questions. Jesus's questions and responses.

My kingdom does not belong to this world.

Pilate is on trial: does he recognize the Truth? "Truth" and "true" in the Gospel of John.

²⁸*So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. ²⁹And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him."* ³⁰*As he was saying these things, many believed in him.* ³¹*Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. --* John 8:28-32

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. -- John 14:6

About verse 38 (not included in Sunday's Gospel) *What is truth?*
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A time of shared reflection

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath;  
such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast;  
such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my heart: such a joy as none can move;  
such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.

---George Herbert (d. 1633) Hymn 487 set to tune *The Call* by Ralph Vaughan Williams (d. 1958)