

CHRIST THE KING

November 20, 1994

Daniel 7:13-14

I, Daniel had a dream and visions as I lay in bed. As 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. To 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.

Revelation 1:5-8

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

John 18:33-37

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate 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?" Jesus 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." Pilate 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."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What attributes do you spontaneously associate with an earthly king?
2. Jesus came into our world as a "Suffering Servant." (Is. 42) How can you reconcile this role with one who possesses "dominion, glory, kingship?" (Dan 7)
3. Do you think that the choices that you make identify you more readily with an earthly king or the Servant King that Jesus was?
4. What specific things have you done during the past week or month in your effort to live out your priesthood of loving service to the poor, sick, elderly members of Christ's Body? In retrospect, how do you feel about those things?

Ann Jones, CSJ □

This king has ultimate authority

THE GOOD NEWS

GOD'S WORD IN EVERYDAY LIVING

By Father Paul Turner



which will stick throughout the Gospel.

Later, the crowd proclaims Jesus a king as he rides into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (12:13). "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel." John tells us (12:15) this fulfills a royal prophecy (Zech 9:9), "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

STILL, EARLIER ON, after the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus rejected the role of king (John 6:15). "When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself." Although Jesus is a king, he's not the kind of king people want -- a miracle worker, one who will put food on the table, entertainment in the field, and who will rule the earthly Israel. No, he will rule the kingdom of God.

Yet, in his final interview with Pilate, Jesus dodges the question. When Pilate asks, "So you are a king?" Jesus, soon to be dressed in the royal colors provided by mocking soldiers, responds, "You say that I am a king." But Pilate need not fear. Jesus is not after his job. He's not that kind of king. He's here to testify to the truth, a commodity Pilate seems to lack (18:38).

IN THE END, the vision of Christ the King in this special episode makes us appreciate how powerful this king really is. He stands unflinching before authority, trial and death. This is the king with ultimate authority, by whom others will stand trial, and who conquers death. Pilate misses the point, but the faithful reader learns the eye-opening truth.

When authority, trials and death threaten us, Christ remains king.

Father Paul Turner is pastor of St. John Francis Regis Parish, Kansas City. □

Daily Scripture Readings

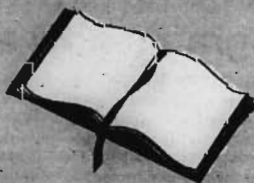
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, November 13
Daniel 12:1-3
Psalms 16:5, 8-11
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
Mark 13:24-32

Monday, November 14
Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5
Psalms 1:1-4, 6
Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday, November 15
Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22
Psalms 15:2-5
Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday, November 16
Revelation 4:1-11
Psalms 150:1-6
Luke 19:11-28

Thursday, November 17
Revelation 5:1-10
Psalms 149:1-6, 9
Luke 19:41-44



Friday, November 18
Revelation 10:8-11
Psalms 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131
Luke 19:45-48

Saturday, November 19
Revelation 11:4-12
Psalms 144:1-2, 9-10
Luke 20:27-40

Christ the King Sunday
Sunday, November 20
Daniel 7:13-14
Psalms 93:1-2, 5
Revelation 1:5-8
John 18:33-37