

## REFLECTION FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

On this, the 34<sup>th</sup> and last Sunday in Ordinary Time in the liturgical year, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. It is the corollary of the journey we have made throughout the past twelve months. After our journey with Jesus, after listening to his words and seeing his actions, we conclude, proclaim, and confess that he is our guide, our teacher, our Lord, our Savior, our King.

What kind of Lord and King do we discover in Jesus? Through the readings proclaimed to us in the Liturgy, we can see the kind of King that Jesus is and the Kingdom that he proposes to us.

In the first reading, it is announced that God is going to intervene in the world to eliminate the cruelty, violence, and oppression that mark the history of human kingdoms. Through a “*son of man*” who will appear “*on the clouds*,” God will give history back its dimension of “*humanity*” and make his children walk in peace. Jesus Christ took on this title of “*Son of Man*” for himself, presenting himself to the world as the One who would establish a Kingdom of justice and peace. It is an eternal Kingdom that will never be destroyed. We are invited to be part of this Kingdom; to be builders of this Kingdom; to commit ourselves to making this Kingdom that Christ came to establish among us a reality in the world.

In the Responsorial Psalm we affirm that Jesus is King, appearing on a throne of light. He has clothed himself with majesty; he has girded himself with power; he has established the universe which will not waver. His throne has always been firm since the Lord has existed for all eternity.

In the second reading, the at the beginning of the book of Revelations, it presents Jesus as the Lord of time and history, the **beginning** and the **end** of all things, the “*Ruler of the kings of the earth*”, the one who will come “*on the clouds*” full of power, glory and majesty, to establish a definitive kingdom of happiness, life, and peace. This is precisely the Christian interpretation of the figure of the “*son of man*” spoken of in the first reading. The one they pierced, the one they saw die on the cross, he is the Lord of the Universe. Let us worship him, acclaim him, accept him as king in our lives.

In the Gospel, Jesus assumes his Kingship before Pilate, the Roman prefect of Judea. However, Jesus makes it clear that his kingship is not based on power, authority, domination, or ambition, as is the case with kings of the earth. Jesus' “*royal*” mission is to “*bear witness to the truth*;” and it takes the form of love, service, forgiveness, sharing, and the gift of life. It is on the path of humility, of

giving up his life for us, that Jesus assumes himself as King. His crown is made of thorns; his throne is the cross; but this is the path chosen by Jesus to affirm his kingship.

Are we ready to participate in this Kingdom of Christ? There is no King without a Kingdom and without subjects. Lord, let us know how to be subjects of such a great King, following his commandments, accepting his Gospel, and offering our lives with him in the service of our brothers and sisters.

Amen.