

Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe “More Than Any King”
November 21, 2021

Dan 7:13-14
Rev 1:5-8
Jn 18:33-37

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

From earliest times, members of the human race have wanted someone to keep order and guarantee the rights of everyone. Often, someone was chosen to fulfill this role. But, unfortunately, at other times, someone powerful took this role to themselves.

Thus, nations, eventually, were ruled by kings. And kings could be benevolent or tyrannical. Later, someone conceived the idea of democracy with a republic of elected representatives – Yet, as we know, even the best of these can degenerate into self-service, political discord, and terrible hardship for the masses they are supposed to serve.

Because human beings are fatally flawed, it doesn't take long for evil to insert itself into every human enterprise. Consequently, we have what we experience today – Rulers who serve themselves – Rulers controlled by moneyed interests – Nations capable of destroying life as we know it. And billions of people struggling and suffering without any way to change things permanently for the better.

Nevertheless, all the scriptures for today give us hope. They also give us a way to live through and survive the worst we can experience on our journey here.

The prophet Daniel wrote for those Chosen People who continued to strive to be faithful to God during their exile in Babylon. But Daniel also wrote for us – Because no matter what we suffer – No matter how bad things get – No matter how much power evil seems to have – God will always be supreme! God created all other things and beings – Therefore, every creature is under His authority.

Daniel tells us that God has given all power and dominion to His Son – who became one of us as the Son of man. Jesus lived every moment doing God's will – and God's love and truth and goodness were always in his own mind and heart. Thus, he was raised, after his death on the cross – and took his rightful place in the presence of the Father, as Son of God and Son of man!

In the Gospel of John, we see Jesus before Pontius Pilate on trial for his life. Pilate was the ruler of a small province in the empire of Rome under Caesar. Sadly, he had no conception of who it really was who stood before him.

When asked about his kingship, Jesus said that his kingdom was of another world – of another order and dimension – on another cosmic level – beyond the materiality of this Earth. Then, Jesus testified what his mission was in this life – It was to testify to the truth – To witness to the truth – To speak the truth in all things – To reveal the truths of God.

The mission of Jesus was to live those truths as a human person on a planet beset by the untruth of darkened hearts, minds, and spirits – and the untruth of sin and evil itself!

And then, Jesus said a startling thing. He said that everyone who belongs to the truth listens to his voice! In other words, if we stand and live in the truth of God, then we will hear the meaning of the words of Jesus. The words of the Gospel and the way of Jesus will ring true in our minds and hearts. And if the Gospel rings true, then we also will see the truth about ourselves. What we discover might be unsettling, but self-discovery is always the first step toward change on our journey to God from wherever we might be.

What is so tragic is that most of the Jewish leaders – the scribes, the Pharisees, the priests – never understood the words of Jesus – or who Jesus really was. They did not “belong to the truth” – the truth of God, who is All Truth!

Brothers and Sisters, the Book of Revelation teaches us that Jesus is our Savior, our Redeemer, and our High Priest who brings us before God. He presents us to God with a worthiness we could never acquire or possess on our own. Moreover, we are assured that we are loved.

That the Creator of the Cosmos loves us – is a truth we can have difficulty understanding or even accepting. Nevertheless, that love is always there. It sustains us and envelops us – even if we have no awareness or sense of it. It is real and it can empower us despite how badly our leaders govern and how difficult life becomes because of evil in the world!

So, let us offer a special prayer on this last Sunday before we begin our preparation for Christmas. May we always belong to the truth of God – May we always take to heart the words of Jesus – May we discover the voice of the Holy Spirit within our deepest selves – And may we always be faithful – no matter what happens in our life or in our world!

Amen.

November 21, 2021

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