

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

*You say that I am a king.*

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask 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 witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE / B

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## 'BORN FOR THIS'

The apocalyptic messages of the last weeks now arrive at the climax of our liturgical year: it is the end! In the first reading Daniel regales us with the vision of 'one like the son of man' coming on the clouds of heaven. Our psalm response chants, 'The Lord is 'King'.

We are taken to the passion narrative of John's Gospel: 'Are you the King of the Jews?' It is Pilate who asks. In this moment Jesus speaks with the clarity of the truth: 'My kingdom is not from this world'. Questioned further, he declares, '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.'

This short passage confirms what we already know that Jesus the Christ is 'the Word' who 'became flesh and lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.' (1:14). The 'I Am' statements in John's Gospel proclaim Jesus as 'the bread that came down from heaven' (6:41), 'the bread of life' (6:48), 'the living bread' (6:51), 'the light of the world' (8:12), 'the gate for the sheep' (10:7), 'the good shepherd' who lays his life down for his sheep (10:11), 'the resurrection and the life' (11:25), 'the way, the truth and the life' (14:6), 'the true vine' (15:1), 'the vine, and you are the branches' (15:5). This litany reveals the One in whom we believe and to whose voice we listen. Today we celebrate the One who was born for this.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

## FIRST READING

Dan 7:13-14

A reading from the prophet Daniel

*His sovereignty is eternal.*

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 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.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 92:1-2, 5. R. v. 1

**R.** The Lord is king;  
he is robed in majesty.

1. The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed; /  
the Lord has robed himself with might, / he  
has girded himself with power. **R.**

2. The world you made firm, not to be  
moved; / your throne has stood firm from of  
old. / From all eternity, O Lord, you are. **R.**

3. Truly your decrees are to be trusted. /  
Holiness is fitting to your house, / O Lord,  
until the end of time. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Apoc 1:5-8

A reading from the book of Apocalypse

*The ruler of the kings of the earth . . . made us a  
line of kings, priests to serve his God.*

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of



kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega' says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mk 11:9, 10

**Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia!**