



# WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Cycle B

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Today the reason for the choice of this text is the validation of Jesus' kingship. *"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.'" (John 18:33)*

Pilate asks Jesus three questions that allow him to define his kingship. First, Pilate asks Jesus if he is the King of the Jews. Jesus' response asks whether this is a sincere question or just a trumped-up charge by the Jewish authorities. Even though Pilate's answer suggests the latter, Jesus responds to the next question by making it clear that his kingdom is not of this world; it is not a political or military dominion. Pilate recognizes that Jesus accepts the title of king, so he asks him again if he is a king. To this third question, Jesus responds by equating his kingship with his witness to the truth.

This passage very effectively reminds us that Jesus is a king, but not the kind of king the world understands, but rather servant king. Jesus calls us to servant kingship by virtue of our baptism (we are baptized priest, prophet and servant king.)

Reflect on this passage and raise your awareness heavenward, gaining wisdom in the type of kingship that is at issue not only for Jesus and Pilate, but now especially for you and those you engage in this reflection. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus and his divine servant kingship come alive in your heart and the hearts of all you witness to, for this is what this feast is really celebrating.

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Pilate said to Jesus, "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."