

## Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty  
which shall never pass away.

*First Reading*

From all eternity, O Lord, you are!

*Psalms*

The Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come.

*Second Reading*

'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this.'

*Gospel*

Almighty and merciful God,  
you break the power of evil and make all things new  
in your Son Jesus Christ, the King of the universe.  
May all in heaven and earth acclaim your glory  
and never cease to praise you.

*Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:  
Daniel 7: 13–14; Psalm 92 (93); Apocalypse 1: 5–8; John 18: 33–37

Christ Pantokrator icon painted by Sr. Petra Clare for  
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour church, Gloucester, UK



'Lo,  
I am with  
you always,  
to the end  
of the age.'

Matt. 28.20

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe  
Year B, 24th November 2024

'My kingdom is not of this world'

As we come to the end of another liturgical year, the feast of Christ, King of the Universe, gives us the opportunity to consider the priorities we wish to live by in our troubled world.

This universality is described with the vision of 'one like a son of man', who we identify as Christ himself, from the book of Daniel (**First Reading**). Christ's sovereignty is eternal. It is not exclusive, and shall never be destroyed.

The **Psalm** picks up this theme of kingship and majesty. Christ, as Son of God, has reigned from the beginning of time.

In the **Second Reading** from the Apocalypse, Christ is called the Alpha and the Omega. He has rescued us from our sins and will be made manifest when he comes again on the clouds of heaven.

The **Gospel** brings us to the essential question. What kind of king is Jesus? As Pilate questions him, Jesus explains that his kingdom is not of this world; it is not a kingdom of pomp and power and glory. Christ has come to testify to the truth.

May we pray this week that all humankind may be united in Christ, so that he can offer to the Father a people 'of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace' (words heard at the Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass today).



### Opening Prayer

Almighty, ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, King of the Universe,  
grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery,  
may render your majesty service  
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.

### First Reading Daniel 7: 13–14

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 and women 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.

As I come to my place of prayer, I begin by taking the time to slow down and relax. I breathe deeply, aware of being in God's presence.

What do I want to ask for as I think of this feast of Christ, King of the Universe?

When I'm ready, I read the text slowly, a couple of times, noting what strikes me.

I take the time to imagine the scene that the prophet is drawing.

How do I feel when I see the 'one like a son of man' – Christ himself in glory – coming on clouds from heaven? Does this alter when I observe people of every nation and language before him?

I speak to the Lord about what I see, feel, and respond to.

I look at the text again and perhaps consider this 'son of man'. His reign will never pass away. Am I part of this? In what way?

Do I wish to accept him as my Lord and my king? What does this mean to me today?

In what way do I think he wants me to serve him? I spend time pondering this, listening to him and speaking from my heart.

I now focus on the people of all nations crowding before him. What do I pray for them today?

I end by praying '*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done ...*'

### Gospel John 18: 33–37

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

As I begin to pray, I ask the Holy Spirit to be with me, to help me and lead me. I pause, and think of God's presence holding me in his love.

I turn to the Gospel and read it slowly.

I consider the meeting between these two men, Jesus and Pilate, two leaders.

What do I learn from the leadership Jesus shows?

Maybe I see his dignity, his confidence, his fearlessness, his self-knowledge or his sense of direction ...?

Where does this come from? Is there anything in his leadership that I would like to emulate? I ponder this and speak to him.

How do I see Pilate?

Perhaps unsure, fearful, anxious but willing to please ...?

When am I like this?

I turn to Jesus? What do I want to ask for?

Maybe a clearer sense of purpose? Or a confidence that he will lead me ...?

I speak of this, and spend time in silence so that I can listen to his voice.

Before ending, I pray for all world leaders, of all faiths and all states.

May Christ the King of peace inspire and lead them.