

CHRIST THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE

NOVEMBER 24, 2024

Today we come to the end of the Church Year with the feast of Christ the King of the universe. This feast summarizes the journey we began with the 1st Sunday of Advent 2023. As the opening prayer states:

“We pray, that the whole of creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.” (Opening Prayer)

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Revelation 1.8)

The Gospel passage for today is from John 18 – the encounter between Pilate and Jesus, the day of His death on the cross. Pilate is fascinated by the person of Jesus who has been brought before him for judgment by the Jewish authorities. The stark contrast between the power of Pilate, jealously guarded, and the simplicity of Jesus the preacher from Nazareth is glaring and challenging: both use the same language but with totally different meanings; the idea of power through strength, Pilate, and the power of service in Jesus.

In the words of the Preface for today’s feast:

“Jesus might present to the immensity of your majesty an eternal and universal kingdom, a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace.” (Preface for Christ the King)

Jesus invites us to face the world with strength through service and love.

“We should always remember that Christ himself said that by gentleness we inherit the earth.” (St. Vincent de Paul)

Blessings of peace and gentleness! Fr. Don