

The Eternal Story of Love

Daniel 7:13-14, Revelation 1:5-8, John 18: 33b-37

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

The three readings for this weekend present the eternal story of love that God has for humanity. It is a proclamation of the infinite story of God and God's desire for union and relationship with us.

Today we celebrate Our Lord, Jesus Christ King of the Universe. Jesus is the eternal Word of God, manifest in human form. This celebration encapsulates all that we know and believe about Jesus Christ. It is a fitting celebration to the end of our liturgical year as it defines for us the very essence of God's great gift to humanity.

In the book of Daniel, we hear of the vision of the one to come who will have dominion over all the earth. "...I saw one like the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven; when he reached the Ancient One and was presented before him, the one like the Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship; all people, nations, and language serve him." This is not a prediction of coming events but, rather, a reassurance that God will not allow his people to be without hope in the midst of conflict. God's reign over darkness and evil will continue until the end of time.

The passage from the Book of Revelation, states that "Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth." The author of this text affirms that Jesus "has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen." This proclamation is an eternal message. There is no beginning or end. There is only God. We are members of this eternal story of love.

As Pilate confronts Jesus in the gospel, we, too, are confronted with what we believe. "Are you the King of the Jews?" This is not a religious question that is posed by Pilate. Rather, it is political. Pilate knows that if Jesus answers that he is King then he is in opposition to Rome. Jesus does not take the bait. Jesus turns the table to focus on his mission. "My kingdom does not belong to this world." As seen through the eyes of faith, Jesus is the ultimate sign of love. His death will not be the end but the beginning of the restoration of the reign of God. Jesus proclaims to Pilate this day, "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 is the eternal story of love.

Blessings!


Sue Schettler