

# Sunday, November 25, 2018

## Christ the King / Lectionary 34

### First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

*To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One who is judge will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.*

<sup>9</sup>As I watched,  
thrones were set in place,  
and an Ancient One took his throne,  
his clothing was white as snow,  
and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames,  
and its wheels were burning fire.

<sup>10</sup>A stream of fire issued  
and flowed out from his presence.  
A thousand thousands served him,  
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgment,  
and the books were opened.

<sup>13</sup>As I watched in the night visions,  
I saw one like a human being  
coming with the clouds of heaven.  
And he came to the Ancient One  
and was presented before him.

<sup>14</sup>To him was given dominion  
and glory and kingship,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him.  
His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
that shall not pass away,  
and his kingship is one  
that shall never be destroyed.

*The reading may be concluded:*

The Word of the Lord.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 93

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is king, robed in majesty; the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

<sup>2</sup>**Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;  
you are from everlasting.**

<sup>3</sup>The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted up their voice;  
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

<sup>4</sup>**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea,  
mightier is the LORD who dwells on high.**

<sup>5</sup>Your testimonies are very sure,  
and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and forevermore.

## Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

*The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.*

<sup>4b</sup>Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

*The reading may be concluded:*

The Word of the Lord.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel: John 18:33-37**

*In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.*

<sup>33</sup>Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

<sup>35</sup>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?" <sup>36</sup>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." <sup>37</sup>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."