

## WSC REFLECTION GUIDE

**Readings:** Daniel 7:13-14  
Psalm 93:1-2, 5  
Revelations 1:5-8  
John 18:33-37

Solemnity of Christ the King  
November 22, 2009

**Word:** **The Kingdom of heaven is for those who have the righteousness of Christ.**

**Theme:** **We have the righteousness of Christ when we testify to the truth of His kingship.** [Witnessing]

**Promise:** ***“Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed; holiness befits your house.”*** (Ps 93:5)

### Reflection:

The church year draws to a close on a dramatic note with a gospel scene from Good Friday. John the evangelist reveals Jesus' sheer majesty under the threat of a brutal death sentence. At the same time, he contrasts the character of Jesus with that of the worldly administrators as they face the King of Kings. Jesus stands on trial before Pilate accused of being a king. With death staring him in the face, his reply is clear. ***“My kingdom does not belong to this world.”*** Jesus admits to being a king, but not in the ordinary, worldly definition of kingship; his horizons are not limited to earthly life.

Christ is a spiritual leader who rules with truth and love. He is out to touch the hearts and minds of all people and claim their souls for God. His mission on earth is to unfold a vision of new world, to announce the Good News that God counts us as family, and regards us as his children. We declare where our loyalties lie and demonstrate our love and allegiance to God by the way we live.

The Book of Revelation tells us that Jesus is God personified on earth, the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. Christ and his values must be at the core of our public and private life, our individual and social life, our economic and political life. Christ tells us to stand firmly by the service to our neighbor. We are to show that we are caring persons by our witness and actions - our preferential option of the poor and underprivileged, our active support of campaigns for human development, our participation in such critical areas of social and economic development like housing, health care and education. In Christ's own life we have a model of how to put these values into practice. His followers have done so, laying down their lives for the sake of the kingdom. We too, have the standard by which to set our lives. If we reject it, or accept it only in part, we fail to sufficiently appreciate or comprehend both the greatness of God and the dignity to which we are called. But if we take his call seriously, He will be there to meet us at the very end.

The Feast of the Christ the King provides us with an excellent opportunity to review and revisit the quality of our Christian commitment. Jesus is calling us to rise above our basic instincts of selfishness, bitterness and pride, and to pledge our lives to His service, because although we may fail to see it now, this, indeed, is God's world. It would be better if we allow Christ to lead the way. On our part, the effort involves rising above our worldly level of

behavior. There is no denying that Christian values are not very popular. We need not expect an easy passage through life when we stand for what we believe. But the cross and suffering will become our throne also. The Feast of Christ the King calls us to make room for Jesus in our hearts by imitating His life.

The dilemma confronting Pilate when he finds himself face to face with Jesus has parallels in our own lives. Pilate is obviously disturbed, under pressure, a victim of indecisiveness, but anxious to avoid trouble. He is convinced Jesus is innocent yet does not want to lose face by offending His powerful accusers. He fails to follow his conscience and instead, takes the expedient way out. He washes his hands of Jesus. It is the same story for many of us. We too frequently wash our hands of our Christian responsibilities. Within our family, at work, or in our neighborhood, how often do we take the easy way out and let our Christian standards go by the board?

The kingship of Christ is made real when we allow God to do His work in us and through us. Having the righteousness of Christ we witness to the truth of His kingship, which is our source of strength, our spiritual safety-net and our moral compass and power, an inexhaustible resource from which we can draw during our earthly journey and by which we can live forever. Following Jesus is a life long process involving a daily invitation and commitment to conversion. He calls us, as His subjects, to take His side in the struggle of furthering the growth of His kingdom.

If we have been far from Christ in the past, the coming week, the start of Advent, gives us a chance to begin to unite ourselves more deeply with Him. Following Christ and being with Him in His kingdom are our purpose in this life. It is up to us to take the challenge and embrace the peace and power of Christ the King who was, who is and who is to come.

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father, you call us to be a part of Your kingdom. Help us to build on earth a home which bears the imprint of heaven. By your gospel, with grateful hearts, we thank You, Father, for the work of reconciliation achieved through your Son Jesus on the cross. We pray this in His holy name. Amen.

**Suggested Personal Reflection Guide:**

1. What efforts we have made to allow Christ's kingdom to come alive in our hearts and in our community?
2. In what ways do you witness to the truth? In what ways are you like Pilate?

**Next Week's Daily Mass Reading Guide:**

November 23, 2009 (Mon):	Dn 1 :1-6, 8-20 ; Dn 3 :52-56 ; Lk 21 :1-4
November 24, 2009 (Tue):	Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11
November 25, 2009 (Wed):	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19
November 26, 2009 (Thur):	Dn 6:12-28; Dn 3:68-74; Lk 21:20-28
November 27, 2009 (Fri):	Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33
November 28, 2009 (Sat):	Dn 7:15-17; Dn 3:82-87; LK 21:34-36

***“Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!”***