



First Reading: (*Dan 1 7:13-14*) I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Ps 92:1-2, 5

R. / The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

Second Reading: (*Rev 1:5-8*) Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, every

one who pierced him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel: (*Jn 18:33-37*) Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world." Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice."

REFLECTION

"Are you King of the Jews?" asks Pilate. Jesus boldly and openly tells the Truth. Yes, he is a King by ancestral lineage (of David), by origin and power (from God; he had power over people, satan and natural powers), by his life and works (lives for all and serves all) and by his death (died for his people). He did not deny the truth to escape death. But he was also careful not to give a wrong understanding of his kingship. So he says "my kingship is not of this earth." **Genuine graciousness and credibility consist not in words but in life-witness.** Jesus proved his kingship not by his claim for position and power but by his life, teaching death and resurrection. **Do we understand that if we are given power and position, it is for service and not for privilege and title?** Do we always witness to the truth even if it leads us to suffering and cross? Are we careful not to give wrong impression and wrong message to others by our words and deeds?