



Christ the King Sunday

John 18

²⁸ Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.

John 18

²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and asked,
“What charges are you bringing against this man?”

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³⁰ “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

³¹ Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

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“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. ³² This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

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³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

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³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

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³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate..”

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Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

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- Jesus was declared king in his birth (Matt 2:2)
- Anointed as king and empowered by the Spirit for his kingly mission at his baptism (3:13–17)

- Recognized as king in his ministry
 - by his disciples (John 1:49; 6:15)
 - his enemies (19:14)
 - and himself (Luke 23:2)

- Ultimately entered Jerusalem to die on the cross with the acclamation, “Your king is coming to you” (Matt 21:5).
- During his trial, Jesus spoke of “my kingdom” (John 18:36)
- Received a crown of thorns (John 19:2)

- Was presented for crucifixion with the announcement, “Behold, your king!” (John 19:14)
- Was mocked as king by the soldiers and Pharisees, the sign above his head — “The King of the Jews” (Mark 15:26)

- But this truth was recognized by the criminal beside him (Luke 23:42) and the centurion below (Mark 15:39).
- Jesus rose from the dead, being declared king to a broken creation (Rom 1:3–4) and inaugurating his kingdom as the firstfruits of the new creation (1 Cor 15:20–25).

- He ascended into heaven, where he sat down at the right hand of God, demonstrating the completion of his earthly task (Ps 110:1; Heb 10:11–12) and continuing his reign on earth through his Spirit (Acts 2:33).
- Crisp, Oliver D. *Christology, Ancient and Modern: Explorations in Constructive Dogmatics* (Proceedings of the Los Angeles Theology Conference). Zondervan.

Vexilla Regis by Fortunatus (530-609)

That which the prophet-king of old
Hath in mysterious verse foretold
Is now accomplished, whilst we see
God ruling the nations from a tree.

