

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 93

Ever since the world began, your throne has been established. (v2)

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty & ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest & sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious & gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- John 18:33-37

³³Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, & asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation & the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus 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.” ³⁷Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, & for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. & 2. Compare & contrast these readings with those of the Festival of the Our Lord’s Epiphany. Consider themes, actions, language, grammar, plot, similarities, opposites/inversions, parallel ideas, extensions, reversals, metaphors/symbols, etc. Make a list of at least 12 similarities, 12 dissimilarities, 12 “morals of the story” or lessons learned, & 12 questions you still have. See *Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. & 4. Ideology happens when our political ideas take on ultimate, good vs. evil, apocalyptic, existential, life or death (as in, your life, their death) meaning with the power to explain all conflicts and ambiguities. Review the [Small](#) and [Large Catechisms](#) explanations of the 10 Commandments. How does a properly understood faith act as a break on this human tendency? List at least one thing from each explanation in both Catechisms. Bonus: do the same for the Apostles’ Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. [SC](#), [LC](#) available < bookofconcord.org >

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. What can your congregation do to build trust and remove suspicion between neighbors in the community? Hint: avoid things that are characteristically identified with a political party. How can you help such things happen for the community?
6. St. John does not give enough details in the story to determine Pilate’s attitude. Is he sarcastic, reflective, earnest, impatient, incredulous, contemptuous or something else depends primarily on the reader’s presumptions and conjectures. Some (unverifiable) legends say that Pilate converted to Christianity. What does this show you about the questions unbelievers ask? How does your attitude color what you infer from “pre-Christians” inquiries? How can you make sure to speak the truth in love (*Ephesians 4:15*) biblically and doctrinally? See *Titus 2:7-8; 1 Peter 3:14-18*

Festival of Christ the King
Series: Love God & Love Neighbor

11.21.21
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

More Love, Less Ideology

Jesus' kind of love conquers the world, not Pilate's violence & injustice.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: You say that I am a king. For this I was born, & for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. (*v37b*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. (*Mark 11:9*)

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