

November 2021  
Ordinary Time  
Proper 29



# The Diocesan Sunday School Teacher



## Welcome

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Greetings My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Our theme for this week is: Celebrating Our Hope in Jesus Christ, the King of kings

In the reading from Daniel, the oppressed Jewish people were assured in Daniel's vision that a time was coming when their earthly rulers and their kingdoms would come to an end. God would raise up "One like a human" to rescue God's people. He will reign forever.

Jesus asserted that he is that king, but his kingdom is not from this world, nor does he come as earthly rulers do. Jesus is sent by God to bring ultimate grace and peace to humanity. Through his life, crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus overturns the kingdoms of this world and restores us to God.

John in the Book of Revelation tells his readers to look to Jesus as their ultimate source of hope, because it is not the rulers of this world nor the experiences of life that have the last word. It is God who had the first word, and God who has the last word, and that word is one of love, hope and eternal peace.

We can place our eternal hope and trust in Jesus Christ, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, who is raised by God to restore us to freedom, unity and wholeness. God will see us through even the most difficult situations. They will all come to an end, as God asserts ultimate power and authority in this world.

Blessings,  
The Sunday School Team



## Collect & Readings

### Memory Verse:

#### Revelation 1:4b-5

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, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

### The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under His most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Psalm 93

Revelation 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

## *The First Lesson (Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14)*

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.

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.

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. 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.

Daniel's vision of God's reign in heaven, and his appointment of "One like a human" to reign over the earth became a symbol of hope to those who faced oppression from their earthly rulers

### QUESTIONS:

Name some of the rulers who had authority over the Jewish people in Daniel's time?

Describe Daniel's vision of God and heaven.

What will be the outcome in the end when Jesus is exalted as king?

### BIBLE STUDY: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

Imagine being a Jew living under the leadership of earthly rulers who were very unkind. The Jews endured bad treatment from King Belshazzar, then Darius the Mede, then the Macedonian general Alexander the Great, followed by his generals Ptolemy and Seleucus. The Seleukid king, Antiochus IV Epiphanes was particularly bad, he persecuted the Jewish people and profaned the Temple.

In Daniel's vision, the people found hope, that one day, the kingdoms of their earthly leaders would come to an end, and God would establish a new and everlasting kingdom; a kingdom of justice and peace.

In the reading - God is the Ancient One, and Christians believe that Jesus is the one referred to as "One like a human being."

Jesus told his disciples that they 'will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven'" (Mark 14:62), identifying himself as the one referred to in Daniel.

God raised up Jesus to free his people from the oppression they faced from earthly rulers, and now he reigns over all the earth.

### ACTIVITY:

Read together the Canticle: A Song to the Lamb on page 53 of the Book of Common Prayer

<http://www.anglicandioceseja.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/A-Song-to-the-Lamb-Propert-29.pdf>

## *Psalm 93*



1 The Lord is King; he has put on splendid apparel; \* the Lord has put on his apparel and girded himself with strength.

2 He has made the whole world so sure \* that it cannot be moved;

3 Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; \* you are from everlasting.

4 The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted up their voice; \* the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

5 Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, \* mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.

6 Your testimonies are very sure, \* and holiness adorns your house, O Lord, for ever and for evermore.

The Psalmist tells of the authority that God has over all the world.

God is the creator, and has ultimate strength, holiness and power over all things.

Even nature honours God.

## The Second Lesson (Revelation 1:4b-8)

Grace and peace have three sources: God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ. People are called to place their hope in God, for God is the source of ultimate peace and authority in the world.

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, 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, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

### BIBLE STUDY: Revelation 1:4b-8

The Holy Spirit spoke the word of hope through John who recorded it in the book of the Revelation.

In the reading, believers were invited to recognise that their hope is in Jesus Christ, and not in the Roman rulers. God has the final word and it is a word of grace and peace, rather than their experience of oppression.

The people to whom John was writing, Christians in the seven churches and across the world were to understand, that grace and true peace comes from God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ and not from the oppressive Roman system.

God’s love for humanity is so great that he sent Jesus Christ, who through his life, death, and resurrection is the main source of grace, peace, and life for us.

Many earthly rulers will come and attempt to assert ultimate authority, but God is clear that it is he alone who is in charge of this world. God has the first and last word in creation.



Jesus was being questioned by Pontius Pilate. Although Pilate had the earthly power, it is Jesus who clearly asserted that he has power, but of a different kind—because his kingdom is not from this world.

## St. John 18:33-37

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

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.” 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.”

### QUESTIONS:

What are the words used to describe God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus in the reading?

Who has the final word in this world?

What does that mean for all the things that are not going well, or for those who think that they can oppress God’s people?

### ACTIVITY:

Heaven Colouring Pages:

<http://www.anglicandioceseja.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Heaven-Colouring-Pages-Proper-29.pdf>

# St. John 18:33-37 Cont.



## BIBLE STUDY: St. John 18:33-37

In today's reading, Jesus is standing before Pilate who is asking him questions. Pilate did not want to be a part of the conflict between the Jewish religious leaders and Jesus. However, once they accused Jesus of being a king, Pilate had to intervene, because he could not allow anyone to usurp the authority of his bosses in Rome.

Pilate therefore, asked Jesus if he was the king of the Jews. Jesus' answer caught him off guard. He expected a yes or no answer – instead Jesus sought to find out if Pilate was asking for himself or acting on behalf of the Jewish religious leaders. Pilate made clear, that his role was only to look after his own interests and that of his bosses. His task was to ensure that he did whatever was necessary to ensure that he looked good, that there was no unrest and that the maximum taxes were collected.

Jesus responded – that his kingdom is not of this world. Jesus is reminding us that he is not a political, or military leader. Instead, he has come to transform this world into the kingdom of God, where there is justice and peace, where sin is conquered and everyone is reunited with God.

Jesus, who was beaten and crucified demonstrates what his kingship is about, as he gives his life, so that all who believe in him have everlasting life.

Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords who conquered death and sits at God's right hand.

### QUESTIONS

What question did Pilate ask Jesus?

What did Jesus mean when he said that his kingdom is not of this world?

How can we join Jesus in transforming this world into God's kingdom?

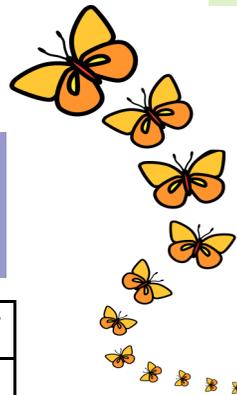
### Activity: Word Search

John 18:33-37

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Jews Pilate Chief World Testimony Listen Talk Arrest

King Priests Truth Jesus Kingdom Handed Born Side



We hope you found this newsletter informative and useful.

Please feel free to share it with others.

We extend our thanks to all the persons who assisted in the preparation of this newsletter.

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