

SINGING TO GOD IN GRATITUDE & HUMILITY
+ THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE +
34th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 21 NOVEMBER 2021



THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Today is the *Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*.

We would normally ponder serious issues in our world.
We would remember that our trust is in God, not in human structures.
We would ponder structural injustices and the willful damage of our planet.
We would remember that this Solemnity
was inaugurated post world war one, post Spanish Flu,
and in a time of threats to humanity
by Communism, Fascism, an emerging Nazism, and other forms of totalitarianism.

Since then, we have acknowledged threats to human rights, to peace and to the earth,
our common home.
Since then, we have an increased consciousness of poverty and its effects in the world.
Since then, we have been challenged to oppose many forms of discrimination in our world.

But today we will take a different focus within the theme of God's reign.

It is the last Sunday of the Church Year.

Next weekend we begin Advent and our preparation for Christmas.
On this Monday is the Memorial of Saint Cecilia, one of the patron saints of music.

IMAGES AND TITLES

We use many images to help us in knowing God.
Sometimes we pray to God as our loving God or as almighty God.
Some famous images included God

- as the Potter and we are the clay.
- as the Shepherd and we the flock

We see God as Creator in the Book of Genesis and some of the Psalms.
And in the New Testament, Jesus Christ our Saviour teaches us to see God as our loving parent.
As Christians, we behold God's loving revelation as Trinity.

Let us now pause and add our own favourite titles and images of God from the Bible.

[pause]

JOHN 18:33-37 – THE REIGN OF GOD

In today's Gospel passage, we connect God's reign with truth.
The Gospel scene was early morning,
and Jesus had been taken from Caiaphas to Pilate,
Pilate went out to them.
In reply to Pilate's demand that they judge Jesus according to the law,
a fact is made known - they want Pilate to condemn Jesus to death.
Pilate went back inside, and summoned Jesus.
In the conversation we learn that the kingdom of God is not like a political kingdom.

We hear in the Gospel that Jesus is different from other kings.
The conversation continued:

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.'***

As we listen to the voice of God in our lives,
we seek the truth as God reveals it to us.

TRUTH AND HUMILITY

As we wait on God, we realize our own smallness,
and humbly we turn to God in gratitude and praise for all God has done.

We are continually in relationship with God and learning from God.
Yet we might forget that God is humble, and in that humility, God created us.
God chose to create planet Earth over billions of years.
God chose to create us over millions of years.
God chose to keep renewing covenants with humanity, even though we failed so many times.

God chose to send Jesus into the world, to teach and to heal and to save us.
Jesus showed humility in his ministry, in his suffering for us, and in his dying for us.

GRATITUDE AND PRAISE

There are some wonderful psalms in praise of God.
There are inspiring passages of humility revealed in the Bible.

Let us remember the words of a well-known secular song and adapt its meaning to God and ourselves in humility.

'The Wind Beneath My Wings' by Larry Henley and Jeff Silbar is such a song.
Let us pause and remember in our minds the music and lyrics.

[Pause]

Let us now pray that song directly to God through our minds and hearts.

[Pause]

As we pray the song,

- we know that God is the wind beneath our wings.
- that it is God who has all the strength.
- God is our hero, and we strive to be immersed into the goodness and love of God.
- humbly we acknowledge the truth, that we would be nothing without God.

Perhaps we could add other insights from our praying the song to God.

[Pause]

All are now invited to choose a hymn or song
that each of us can sing to God on this Monday wherever we are.
On this Monday's feast of the patroness of music, we sing our prayer to God.

[Pause and choose your hymn or song]

Each of us might also like to choose where we would sing it.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us in the ways of truth.

Amen

Father Gerry

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/112121.cfm>

