

Feeble, Fleeting Human Glory

Lorenzo Sabbatini painted this amazing Christ the King ascended in heavenly glory. Have you heard of the artist? He and his art were sought after by the wealthiest, most powerful people of his day—so famous then, but unknown today. Thus is the feeble nature of human glory.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is in chains at the mercy of Pontius Pilate. The Roman procurator failed to recognize him. Thus is the feeble nature of human recognition.

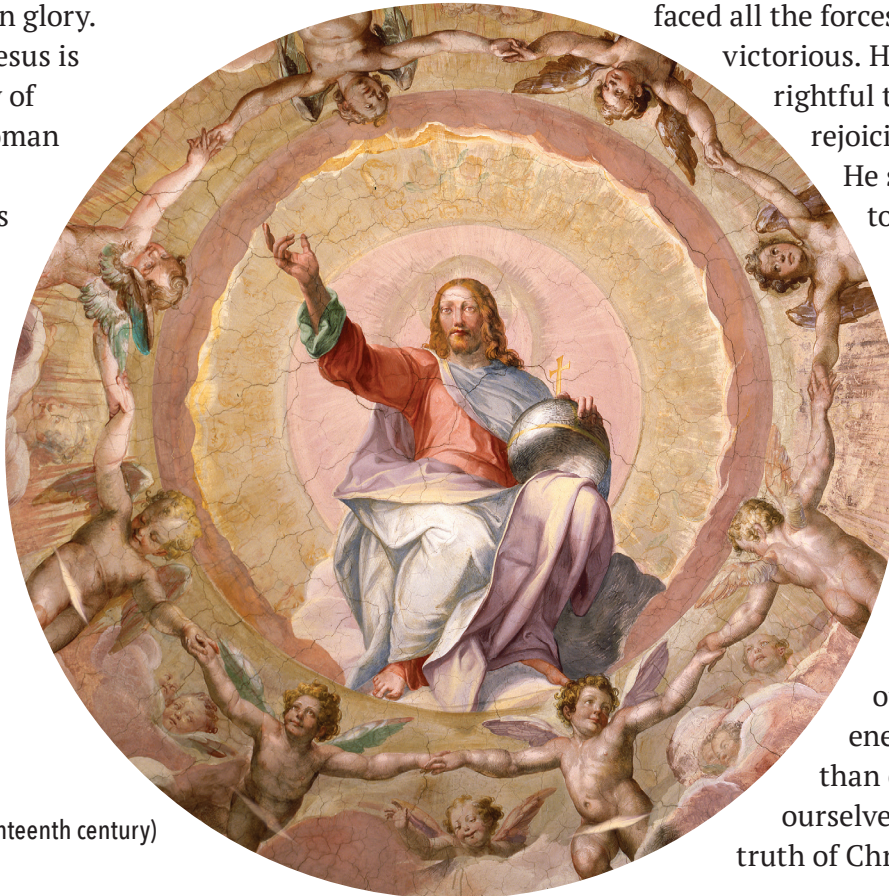
Pilate had before him the King of Kings, the author of all authority in heaven and on earth, his maker and judge. It appeared that Pilate was the powerful one, but Jesus knew all power really came from his

Father. Thus the feeble nature of vision without faith.

This ceiling scene painted by Sabbatini is what we should always keep in mind—Jesus taken up into the clouds as he blesses us. Cherubs dance and celebrate the return of the King, their fearless leader, who faced all the forces of hell and emerged victorious. He was taking his rightful throne and they are rejoicing at having him back. He still reigns from there today.

He has opened the gates of heaven so all his beloved can now enter and populate the mansions prepared for them from the dawn of time. We may often feel like victims of circumstances or totally limited by our failures, health, or enemies. Yet, we are more than conquerors if we allow ourselves to be set free by the truth of Christ's kingship.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: *Overview of the Vault, St. Lawrence Chapel* (circa eighteenth century)
Artist: Lorenzo Sabbatini
Location: Vatican Museums

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For Reflection

Do I judge people superficially or with a vision enlightened by the gospel?

How can I truthfully and faithfully judge situations, and help others do the same?

*Jesus answered [Pilate], "You say I am a king.
For this I was born and for this I came into the world."*

John 18:37

Calendar

Monday

NOVEMBER 26

Weekday

Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5

Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday

NOVEMBER 27

Weekday

Rv 14:14-19

Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday

NOVEMBER 28

Weekday

Rv 15:1-4

Lk 21:12-19

Thursday

NOVEMBER 29

Weekday

Rv 18:1-2, 21-23;

19:1-3, 9a

Lk 21:20-28

Friday

NOVEMBER 30

*St. Andrew,
Apostle*

Rom 10:9-18

Mt 4:18-22

Saturday

DECEMBER 1

Weekday

Rv 22:1-7

Lk 21:34-36

Sunday

DECEMBER 2

*First Sunday
of Advent*

Jer 33:14-16

1 Thes 3:12-4:2

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE/BOB ROLLER

Dear Padre,

Why does the Church continue to use the image of a king to describe Jesus? He didn't act like a king or expect his followers to treat him like one.

Hereditary kings ruled most nations in the ancient Near East. In Egypt, the king was actually recognized as a god. In Israel, God was considered to be the one true king, and God's covenant was the treaty that united God and the people.

But a time came when the Israelites thought they needed to strengthen themselves militarily and politically. Then the elders came to Samuel and asked him to appoint a king to govern them like other nations (1 Samuel 8:5). The three great kings of Israel (Saul, David, and Solomon) were considered instruments of God but were also subject to existing legal codes.

Throughout the New Testament runs the theme that Jesus, a descendant of the royal Davidic line, is a ruler or king. The Magi first proclaimed Jesus king, saying they were looking for the "newborn king of the Jews" (Matthew 2:2).

At the heart of Jesus' message was the good news that all people could enter the kingdom of God if they rejected sin. Jesus used the parable of the mustard seed (Mark 4:30-32) to show that his kingdom will grow until everyone can be embraced within its branches. This kingdom, first manifested in simplicity and love in the Galilean countryside, is to reach its fulfillment in a great love among all people. Jesus as king is an image that should lead us to recognize our commitment to love and service to others in his kingdom.

—Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

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KING DAVID IN PRAYER, PIETER DE GREBBER, WIKI COMMONS



A Word From Pope Francis

The Lord says: it is not important to me that you do this or that, it is important to me that the orphan is cared for, that the widow is cared for, that the outcast person is heard, that creation is protected. This is the kingdom of God!

—Homily, July 26, 2014