

*The Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the
Universe
November 20, 2022*

- From archives of Monsignor John J. Gilchrist November 23, 2003

Since 1925 this feast has come on the last Sunday of the Liturgical year of the Church. The concept of a King who was to come had developed in Israel over the years along with that of the Messiah. In fact, by the time of Jesus the Jews were waiting for a prophet like Moses (Dt.18:15), who would be a Priest and a King.

In the Book of Zechariah, for example, there had been a statement “your King shall come to you, a just saviour is he, meek and riding on a cold, the foal of an ass” (Zech. 9:9). The Jews were awaiting this King – Messiah, this warrior who would lead them to freedom.

So when Jesus was born, and the Magi came, looking for the “King of the Jews.” It was logical for Herod the Great to be alarmed. The appearance of any king would be a threat to him. So he killed the innocents in order to destroy the future king – a threat to his throne.

When Jesus came, preaching about the “Kingdom of God” that was about to come, it was logical for both his friends and enemies to see in Jesus the “new David” the one who would lead a revolt to overthrow the Romans. The followers of

Jesus, both the Apostles and the Disciples never really understood what Jesus was about. His enemies saw Jesus as a threat. His followers saw in Him a new hope for an earthly kingdom.

Palm Sunday, therefore, was the last straw. The leaders of the Jews saw clearly that with one word from Jesus, the entire city could erupt in rebellion. He had to be stopped. So, he was arrested.

Jesus, before Pontius Pilate, set the record straight. “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom did belong to the world, my attendants would be fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” The reality is that Jesus surpassed both time and space.

Had Jesus really been only a temporal earthly King, His Kingdom would have only lasted as long as his world would last. No! Jesus, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, the final judge of the world, the ruler beyond time and space, is the one who waits in the heavenly realm at the right hand of the Father till the end of earthly time.

One day all things will be subject to Him, and each of us will be welcomed into that place prepared by Him for us where we shall spend eternity in love, peace and happiness.

常年期第三十四主日 基督普世君王节 (11/20/2022)

- 摘自 John J. Gilchrist 蒙席案卷, 2003 年 11 月 23 日

自 1925 年起这个节日就定格在教会礼仪年的最后一个主日上。在以色列人中将要到来的君王与默西亚的即将到来的想法已酝酿了多年。事实上耶稣时代的犹太人一直在等待一个像梅瑟那样的先知（申 18：15），他是一个司祭或是一个先知。

例如，在匝加利亚先知书中，有一段描述：【你的君王到你这里来，他是正义的，胜利的，谦逊的，骑在驴上，骑在驴驹上。】（匝 9：9）犹太人在等待这个君王－默西亚，即要让他们获得自由的武士。

耶稣诞生时，东方贤士前来寻找“犹太人的君王”。这无疑引起大黑落德的警觉。任何君王的出现对他来说都是一个威胁。所以他屠杀无辜的婴儿来消灭对他王位构成威胁的未来君王。

当耶稣到来时，祂一直在宣讲即将来临的【天国】。毋庸置疑，不论是耶稣的朋友还是敌人都把祂看成是“新的达味王”，将带领众人反叛并推翻罗马人的统治。耶稣的追随者，不论是祂的宗徒，还是门徒，从未真正明白耶稣所说的天国。祂的敌人视祂为一个威胁，而祂的追随者们则对祂建立地上的以色列国寄予厚望。

圣枝主日，因此变成了犹太掌权者们的救命稻草。他们清楚地看到，只要耶稣一句话，整个耶路撒冷城就会发生暴动。他们必须要阻止祂，因此，他们逮捕了耶稣。

在般雀比拉多面前，耶稣直截了当澄清事实：【我的国不属于这个世界：假如我的国属于这世界，我的臣民早已反抗了，使我不至于被交给犹太人；但是，我的国不是这世界的。】事实是耶稣超越了时空。

假如耶稣只是一个暂时的世上君王，他的国也只能维持在他在世的时间。不！耶稣是天主之子，世界的救赎者和终审判者，祂是超越时间和空间的一切掌管者，祂是在天坐在天父右边等待属世终结的那位天主子。

某日所有的一切将由祂统领，我们每位将被迎接到祂为我们准备的地方，在那里我们将以爱，平安，喜乐度我们永恒的生命。