

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading of the Gospel according to John** (*John 18:36-37*)

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now My kingdom is from another place.” “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to Me.” The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Reflection ~ Revealing the Truth

**The truth is threatening to some people.** *Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil (John 3:19).* Jesus was crucified for speaking the truth and upholding it. Some people find the truth uncomfortable and threatening. Holy truth is the divine light that shines into all hearts exposing all darkness. Thus, accepting truth involves acknowledging our inner darkness and accepting change for the better. Change is painful. The weakened heart closes itself against it, not realising God is ever-present with His graces to help those who desire to seek peace and grow closer to Him.

**The truth of God’s love for every person without exception.** Everyone seeks to be loved. Everyone is loved exceedingly, beyond imagination by God. *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).* God the Father has bent backwards to show poor humanity His divine love. He asked His precious Son, Jesus Christ to step down from His throne and to come to earth to be borne incarnate of the Virgin Mary so that He could offer Himself as a sacrificial offering for our sins by His shameful and agonising death on the cross. *“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! (Isaiah 49:15).* God’s love is more caring than that of the best mothers.

**The truth of God’s promise of eternal life (cf. Matthew 25:46).** We are made to last forever, sharing God’s joy and glory. Jesus said: I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full (cf. John 10:10). Jesus did not promise us passing glory on this earth but lasting glory in heaven. *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).* Jesus assures each of us that He has prepared a place for us in heaven: *My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? (John 14:2).*

**The truth of eternal damnation for those who reject God’s mercy.** Hell exists for those poor souls who condemn themselves by refusing, through their pride, to seek forgiveness for their sins. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).* God’s merciful love assures us of forgiveness of our sins no matter how grievous whenever we ask for it. Which loving father would like to see his child condemned? *God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).* However, God cannot force His salvation on any child of His even though the condemnation of the unrepentant sinner causes Him great pain and suffering.

**The truth that God is ever present with us.** Jesus promised that He will always be with us (cf. Matthew 28:20). He is present to us in many ways: through His Word, His Sacraments, in our hearts through the presence of the Holy Spirit and whenever we call to Him. Most wondrous of all, Jesus is present in body, blood soul and divinity in the Holy Eucharist (cf. Matthew 26:26, Luke 22:19, John 6:51, 53-56, CCC 1374). Jesus has promised not to leave us orphans. He has revealed God His Father and given us the Virgin Mary to be our spiritual Mother before He died on the cross. Though the world may be on the road to become a place of chaos and confusion due to the unprecedented darkness in human hearts, their loving presence are always with us.

### Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, by Your life on earth, You have demonstrated that Truth is worth dying for. You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. You said that the truth will set us free (cf. John 8:32). Place holy truth in the centre of our hearts. In this world of falsehood and compromise, give us the courage to always uphold the truths of our faith no matter what opposition we may encounter. Compromising on our faith to suit the tastes of the day and the opinion of other people whom we want to please, will lead to building our house on sand. The foundation of our faith will be weakened. Mary, Refuge of Holy Love, strengthen our faith and give us holy boldness. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.