

“My kingship is not of this world. My kingship is not from this world.” [Jn. 18: 36](#)

So Jesus proclaims as He stands before Pontius

Pilate, the representative of Caesar: the mortal man who had made himself the god-king of the Roman Empire.

A fake: a pale imitation of Jesus, who is the One True King of Heaven and earth.

“The time for judging this world has come, [Jesus says of His Death, Resurrection, and Ascension] when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” [Jn. 12: 31 – 32](#)

Just like the Phantom of the Opera, Satan hides behind the mask of all those rulers throughout history who have set themselves up in God’s rightful place.

Jesus defeated Satan when He mounted the Cross, and will destroy Him when He comes again in glory at the end of time. [See Heb. 2: 14 – 15 & Rev. 20: 10](#)

This is Truth: because the Kingship of Jesus, and Truth are indissolubly bound together: “I am a king [Jesus said] For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth.” [Jn. 18: 37](#)

And the simple, yet most profound truth is what Paul says is the mark of the Christian; that we can say: “Jesus is Lord.” [1 Cor. 12: 3](#)

To proclaim that from our heart and soul, with utter conviction; and only able to do that because we are: “Under the influence of the Holy Spirit.” [1 Cor. 12: 3](#)

To do so is not an escape from reality into a make-believe world of myth, and delusion.

We pray, do we not: ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven?’

As Jesus explains to Pilate; God’s Kingdom is not the sort that grows in this world.

Yes, His Kingdom is certainly for this world, but it isn’t from it; it comes from somewhere else – it comes from above – from Heaven, from God.

And at Pentecost that Kingdom came down upon the Church, which was born on the Cross.

“For it was from the side of Christ as He slept the sleep of death upon the cross that there came forth ‘the wondrous sacrament of the whole Church.’” [Vatican II: SC 5](#)

Yet in today’s first reading, and the Gospel, it might seem that there were two Pentecost’s. Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles places it 50 days after the Resurrection of Jesus.

John, in his Gospel, places it on the evening of the Resurrection.

Is one true, and the other false; and, if so, which one is the truth?

The answer, I believe, is that both of them are the truth; there is a seamless link between them.

In John, Jesus comes to the fearful Disciples on the evening of His Resurrection.

He wants to give each one of them His personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit; the same indwelling we receive at our Baptism, and Confirmation.

The Holy Spirit is the breath of the Lord’s love to make Him present in each of the Disciples, and us – so that He is constantly within us as our Lord, our Saviour, and our Friend.

But in the Acts of the Apostles He comes in power upon the Disciples to gift them with all they will need so that they can: “Go and make disciples of all nations.” [Mt. 28: 19](#)

And making a reality of the promise Jesus made to them at His Ascension: “Now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised, and fill you with power from heaven. And I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” [Lk. 24: 49 & Mt. 28: 20](#)

However, the Apostles, and their successors, aren’t given this task to perform on their own: set apart from us other members of the Lord’s Body, the Church.

No: the Holy Spirit inhabits the Church in her entirety, so that she can proclaim with one voice: 'Jesus is Lord.'

So that she can use, for the glory of God, not her own, all of the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to each Christian.

As Satan was defeated on the Cross, and is awaiting his destruction when Jesus returns; nevertheless, he's not going to wait passively: He will attack the Lord.

He will attack the Lord by fomenting sin in His Church.

"The greatest persecution of the Church does not come from external enemies, but is born of sin within the Church." Pope Benedict XVI: Apostolic Trip to Portugal

And that always happens when the Church tries to live as if she is from this world, and has her origins in this world.

But, as Jesus assured His Disciples on the night before His death: "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." Jn. 16: 33

God is not absent; because the Father, Jesus says: "Will give you another Counsellor, to be with you forever, the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth; you know him, for he dwells with you, and is in you." Jn. 14: 16 – 17

At this Eucharist of Pentecost, let us pray for the renewal of the Church, and ourselves: "Lord God, you sanctify your Church in every race and nation. Pour out your gifts of the Holy Spirit on all of mankind, and fulfil now in [our hearts] what you accomplished when the Gospel was first preached on earth." We ask this through Jesus, your Son, and our Lord.

The Office of Readings: Pentecost