

“Blue Bloods.” – December 17, 2017

by Wayne J. Schneider – Credo in unum Deum.

### *“Blue Bloods.”*

St. Luke 23:1–3 and St. John 18:36–37

In case you haven't noticed, we have been moving through the Season of Advent using the color blue as a plumb line. We understand now, that we need not “sing the Blues,” for Jesus our Prophet preaches the “Good News,” driving away our ‘blue’ moods.

We also discovered that Jesus has been awarded the highest honors as our Priest, akin to Mechizedek. These lofty honors are ratified by the Holy Scriptures and fulfilled by Christ. This morning, we find Jesus is a “Blue Blood,” coming from kings and is a King himself.

St. Luke uses the experience of Jesus before Pontius Pilate, to show Jesus' Kingship. The accusers of Jesus plead, *“We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ, a king.”* Pilot, the Roman governor, asks: *“Are You the King of the Jews?”* Jesus responds, *“You have said so.”* (St. Luke 23:2–3)

In the gospel of St. John we learn more. When Pilot asks Jesus why the Chief Priests hate him, Jesus says, *“If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world.”* Pilot then says to Jesus the Messiah: *“So, you are a king?”* Jesus replies, *““You say that I am a king.””* (St. John 18:36–37)

Although St. Luke does not say this, Herod like Pilot, could not find Jesus guilty of any crime. When Jesus returns to Pilot, Pilot call for all the chief priests and the ruling elders and says to them, *“You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. After examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against*

*him. Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, no other deserving death has been done by him” (St. Luke 23:13-15).*

Today, when we consider royalty, we often refer to our political ally the United Kingdom, or other monarchies. Because we live in a democracy, it may be challenging for us to comprehend what being a king, or living with a king, is like. This is exacerbated by all of the ‘beauty queens,’ the used car ‘kings,’ and the multi-sport ‘monarchs’ in our society.

I personally know the indisputable “King of kings,” who is not a pretender to the throne. And, it is the Holy Scriptures, history, reason, and our personal experiences, what is called the “Methodist Qadrilateral,” that creates Jesus’ *‘bona fides’* for me. You may be personally acquainted with him, too.

This King of kings acts as no other king. He owns no earthly throne; wears no regal cape or golden crown. His kingdom has no physical boundary but is found in the spiritual hearts of those who believe. The heart is Jesus’ embassy.

This Jesus is “*Christ the King.*” He is the *infant* sought by the Wise Men from the East. (St. Matthew 2:1-12) He is the *Teacher* whose courses and miracles triggered believers to try to make Jesus the king of Israel. (St. John 6:15) Jesus is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah wrote: “*He will reign on David’s throne . . . forever,*” (Isaiah 9:7 NIV) and the prophet Micah wrote that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)

Jesus came to earth to live in the hearts of humankind and to advance the Kingdom of God. He is the perfect king because he is the only one who flawlessly fulfilled the will of God. Jesus is King like no other. This evidenced by his healing the sick, raising the dead, and in the forgiving of sins. He died so others may live. He rose from the dead to rule by love and grace. He is the most modest “Blue Blood” the world will ever know.

Jesus is our “Blue Blood” who brings joy to our world, from his birth in tiny Bethlehem. Instead of giving this infant-King gifts, he gives us love and salvation. He comes to be King of our hearts, that we might love as he loves. He comes as King of our heads that we may think of others as he does. He comes as King of our souls that we will live as he did. He came to be King of our wills that we might will what God the Father wills: to be and to do the truth. Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.