

Fifteenth Hour : From 7 to 8 AM

Jesus before Pilate. Pilate sends Him to Herod

Showing himself unsatisfied with the accusations they make against You, **Pilate** calls You aside, to be able to condemn You with reason
Alone, he examines You and asks You: “*Are you the king of the Jews?*”

And **You, Jesus, my true King, answer:**

“My Kingdom is not of this world.

Otherwise, thousands of legions of Angels would defend Me.”

And **Pilate**, moved by the sweetness and the dignity of your words, surprised,
says to You: “*So, you are a king?*”

And You: “*You say it I am, and I have come into the world to teach the Truth.”*

Without wanting to know anything else, convinced of your innocence,
Pilate goes out to the lobby and says: “*I find no guilt in this man.*”

Enraged, **the Jews accuse** You of many other things, and **You remain silent.**
You do not defend Yourself.

You repair for the weaknesses of the judges, when they are faced by the arrogant.

You repair for their injustices, and You pray for the innocent, oppressed and abandoned.

Seeing the fury of your enemies,
Pilate sends You to Herod, to get rid of You.

(...) they make You arrive before Herod, who, swelling up, asks You many questions.

You do not answer him and do not even look at him.

And Herod, irritated because he does not see his curiosity satisfied, and *feeling humiliated by your long silence*, declares to all that You are crazy and mindless, and he orders that You be treated as such(...).

My innocent Jesus, no one finds guilt in You – only **the Jews**, because their **faked religiosity**
does not deserve that the Light of Truth may shine in their minds.

My Jesus, infinite Wisdom, how much it costs You being declared insane!

The pains, the ignominies, the humiliations they inflict on You, are so great and so many that the Angels weep, and cover their faces with their wings in order not to see them.

You pray and repair for the ambitions of the kings and of the leaders,

- who aspire to kingdoms for the ruin of the peoples;

- for the many slaughters they cause, and

- for the so much blood they cause to be shed for their whims.

for the sins committed in the courts, in the palaces, and in the militia.