



Celebrate

Christ the King
November 21, 2021

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

As I watched,
thrones were set in place,
and an Ancient One took his
throne,
his clothing was white as snow,
and the hair of his head like
pure wool;
his throne was fiery flames,
and its wheels were burning
fire.

¹⁰A stream of fire issued
and flowed out from his
presence.
A thousand thousands served
him,
and ten thousand times ten
thousand stood attending
him.

The court sat in judgment,
and the books were opened.
¹³As I watched in the night visions,
I saw one like a human being
coming with the clouds of
heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One
and was presented before him.
¹⁴To him was given dominion
and glory and kingship,
that all peoples, nations, and
languages
should serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting
dominion
that shall not pass away,
and his kingship is one
that shall never be destroyed.

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4b-8

The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn, from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.

Grace to you and peace from him
who is and who was and who is to
come, and from the seven spirits
who are before his throne, ⁵and
from Jesus Christ, the faithful wit-
ness, the firstborn of the dead, and
the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed
us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and
made us to be a kingdom, priests
serving his God and Father, to him
be glory and dominion forever and
ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with
the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the
tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega,"
says the Lord God, who is and who
was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel

John 18:33-37

In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.

Pilate entered the headquarters
again, summoned Jesus, and asked
him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"
³⁴Jesus answered, "Do you ask this
on your own, or did others tell you
about me?" ³⁵Pilate replied, "I am
not a Jew, am I? Your own nation
and the chief priests have hand-
ed you over to me. What have you
done?" ³⁶Jesus answered, "My king-
dom is not from this world. If my

kingdom were from this world, my
followers would be fighting to keep
me from being handed over to the
Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not
from here." ³⁷Pilate asked him, "So
you are a king?" Jesus answered,
"You say that I am a king. For this
I was born, and for this I came into
the world, to testify to the truth.
Everyone who belongs to the truth
listens to my voice."

Ev - er since the world be - gan, your
throne has been es - tab - lished.

The LORD is king, robed in majesty;

the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it can-¹ not be moved.

²Ever since the world began, your throne has¹ been established;
you are from¹ everlasting. **R**

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted¹ up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their¹ pounding waves.

⁴Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers¹ of the sea,

mightier is the LORD who¹ dwells on high.

⁵Your testimonies are¹ very sure,

and holiness befits your house, O LORD,

forever and for-¹ evermore. **R**

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for preachers, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers who carry your forgiveness and love to the world. Fill their words and actions with compassion and kindness so that your truth will shine. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 76. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Clement, Bishop of Rome, c. 100; Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, 1927) Revelation 11:15-19. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Justus Falckner, 1723; Jehu Jones, 1852; William Passavant, 1894; pastors in North America) Ezekiel 30:20-26. **Thursday** (Day of Thanksgiving [USA]); commemoration of Isaac Watts, hymn-writer, 1748) Psalm 25:1-10. **Friday** 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22. **Saturday** Luke 21:20-24. **First Sunday of Advent** Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36.

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