



Celebrate

Christ the King
November 24, 2024

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.

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 ¹ armed with strength.

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

²**Ever since the world began, your throne has ¹ been established;
you are from ¹ everlasting. R**

³The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted ¹ up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their ¹ pounding waves.

⁴**Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers ¹ of the sea,
mightier is the LORD who ¹ dwells on high.**

⁵Your testimonies are ¹ very sure,
and holiness befits your house, O LORD,
forever and for- ¹ evermore. R

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 witness, 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 handed you over to me. What have you done?”

³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom 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.”

Prayers of Intercession

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

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Revive our congregations, synods, and national church body to reflect the love, justice, and kinship of your kingdom. Raise up diverse leaders (*like Justus Falckner, Jehu Jones, and William Passavant, whom we commemorate today*) who teach and serve your people. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Nourish parched lands and bring relief to flooded places. Protect wildlife habitats and endangered species, that the chorus of creation's praise resounds with joy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Grant wisdom to the leaders who govern, legislate, and deliberate on our behalf (*local officials may be named*). Advance your nonviolent reign of justice-seeking love through their work. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Draw near to those who are detained, on trial, or incarcerated. Transform systems of retribution into systems of reconciliation and restoration. Empower activists who advocate for change. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Remind us of your enduring love in all seasons. Guide the planning efforts of worship leaders and volunteers who usher our congregation into a meaningful Advent (*worship ministries may be named*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In your eternal presence the saints (*recently deceased members of the congregation may be named*) sing of your majesty. Join our voices with theirs in praise to the one who loves us and frees us from sin. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, 1748) Psalm 76. **Tuesday** Revelation 11:15-19. **Wednesday** Ezekiel 30:20-26. **Thursday** (Day of Thanksgiving [USA]) Psalm 25:1-10. **Friday** 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22. **Saturday** (Andrew, Apostle) John 1:35-42. **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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