



AMDG
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE
YEAR C,
24TH NOVEMBER 2019



Jesus is the image of the unseen God

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,
grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery,
may render your majesty service
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.

This Sunday brings the Church's liturgical year to its conclusion. Today we celebrate our King whose wealth lies in his love for all, and whose authority is exercised through the service of those who are often considered the least in society.

Through his life and death, Jesus reveals the wondrous and challenging nature of his kingship. Luke's Gospel, in particular, emphasises that God's universal love and forgiveness are revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. Even in his dying moments, Jesus was more concerned with saving others than saving himself. (Gospel)

The First Reading tells of the people of Israel anointing David as their king. The Lord asks him to be both shepherd and leader of his people.

The Psalm is a pilgrim song, sung on arrival to Jerusalem; the city to which David moved after his anointing as King at Hebron.

St Paul strongly asserts the primacy of Jesus Christ who is both the first-born of all creation and the first-born from the dead. Christ is the image of the invisible God, whose authority and power far exceeds that of any human king. There is no other force at work on earth that compares with him. (Second Reading)

This week, we might join with Pope Francis in praying to share the Church's Universal Mission, that we and all Christians might strengthen and grow God's mission through the Church by our own prayer and action.

SECOND READING COLOSSIANS 1: 12–20

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.

Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation,
for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignties, Powers –
all things that were created through him and for him.
Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.
Now the Church is his body, he is its head.
As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead,
so that he could be first in every way;
because God wanted all perfection to be found in him
and all things to be reconciled through him and for him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace by his death on the cross.

I settle down slowly, recalling how God my loving Father gazes at me, inviting me to spend time with him. I ask for his special grace and love.

I read this sacred text in a slow, contemplative way.

Rather than trying to understand this profound passage rationally, it may help to allow it simply to speak to me personally.

What is God bringing to my attention about the mystery of the Divine Kingship of Jesus Christ? If I feel drawn, I enter into dialogue with the Lord, or maybe I simply sit in his presence.

I stay with the text, and let gratitude rise up within me for the gifts of our Christ-infused world: its beauty and goodness; its truth and love.

As I offer my own prayer of thanksgiving, I pray for all those who suffer within the whole of creation.

To end my prayer I spend time resting in the mystery of the Unseen God, and ask for a growing confidence in Christ's authority here on earth.

GOSPEL LUKE 23: 35–43

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. ‘He saved others,’ they said, ‘let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.’ The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar, they said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’ Above him there was an inscription: ‘This is the King of the Jews’.

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. ‘Are you not the Christ?’ he said. ‘Save yourself and us as well.’ But the other spoke up and rebuked him. ‘Have you no fear of God at all?’, he said. ‘You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case, we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,’ he said, ‘remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ ‘Indeed, I promise you’, he replied, ‘today you will be with me in paradise.’

In a comfortable position, I ask God to strengthen the simple desire to be in his presence. I ask the Holy Spirit to free my heart of any distractions and allow my awareness of God’s loving desire for me to grow.

When ready, I read the Gospel reflectively.

I ask the Holy Spirit to help me grasp its meaning in my own life.

I listen to whatever God might bring to my attention.

I may allow myself to enter the scene imaginatively.

Perhaps I find myself watching Jesus from the crowd.

What strikes me about him as he is approached by the jeering leaders ... the mocking soldiers ... the abusive criminal?

I notice how I feel as I stand before his anguish and suffering humanity ... his dignity and profound humility ... his love and compassion.

Perhaps I am drawn to the ‘good thief’, prepared to defend Jesus in his hour of need, as he places his trust in Christ and his kingdom.

How do I feel now ... ? perhaps daunted and fearful ... or inspired and drawn? Are there ways in which I can respond even more deeply to suffering, both that of the whole world, and of its people?

I share whatever is in my heart with the Lord.

I end my prayer slowly, perhaps asking for the grace to notice the times where I can work more effectively for Christ’s Kingdom. *Glory be ...*

Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord,
lover of life.

First Reading

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house'.

Psalm

We give thanks to the Father who made it possible for you to
inherit the light.

Second Reading

'Indeed, I promise you ... Today you will be with me in paradise.'

Gospel

This week's texts if you want to reflect further

2 Sam. 5: 1-3; Psalm 121 (122): 1-5; Colossians 1: 12-20; Luke 23: 35-43



'Jesus, remember me
when you come into
your kingdom.'

Gospel



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