



# 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

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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

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*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.

<sup>10</sup>A 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.  
<sup>13</sup>As 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.  
<sup>14</sup>To 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 <sup>1</sup>armed with strength.

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

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup>Your testimonies are <sup>1</sup>very sure,  
and holiness befits your house, O LORD,  
forever and for-<sup>1</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup>and 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, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! 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.

<sup>8</sup>"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?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" <sup>35</sup>Pilate 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?" <sup>36</sup>Jesus 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." <sup>37</sup>Pilate 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

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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

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**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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God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, set free to serve you. We pray for people who serve the well-being of others, especially ministries in our community (*local social ministries or agencies may be named*). Renew them in their work. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to rule in all times and places. We pray for the friends of our congregation who are unable to join our worship in person and for all who are sick and suffering (*especially*). Join their prayers with ours and unite them with us in the body of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God, you sent your Son Jesus to be our beginning and our ending. We give thanks for those whose lives have given us a glimpse of Jesus' reign of justice and peace. Empower us to join their witness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**