

CHRIST THE KING

YEAR C

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of heaven and earth,
you have made Jesus
ruler of all you have created.
Today, we give ourselves
to him once again.
He is our leader,
our shepherd, our guide.
With the power of your Spirit
to make us strong,
we will follow Jesus
to his home with you,
where he lives and reigns
forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Both of our readings focus on Kingship. The first reading presents one of the many accounts of David's ascension as King of Israel. The focus of this account is to show David as "Shepherd King," clearly acclaimed by his own people.

The Gospel comes from Luke's passion narrative. It was chosen, undoubtedly, because of its emphasis on the Kingship of Jesus.

The dramatic juxtaposition of Jesus' death and Kingship pulls our faith to its limits. Like David, Jesus is recognized as King by his own people. But his people are not to be found in a political or geographical reality. Throughout Luke's Gospel, from the Infancy Narratives forward, his people are the sinners, the outcasts. As the others mock, it is the criminal, the social outcast, the abandoned, who knows his need for God, who recognizes Jesus as King. "When you come into your kingdom,

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 5:1-3

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

The people of Israel came to David and said,

"When Saul was our king,
you were the one who helped us.
And God said to you,

'You will be the shepherd of my people,
and you will be their leader.'"

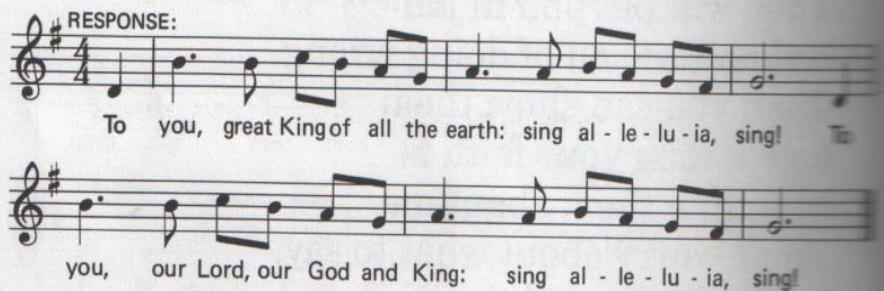
So that day

David made a covenant with the people,
and they anointed him as King of Israel.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE/GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Psalm 47

RESPONSE:



To you, great King of all the earth: sing al - le - lu - ia, sing!

you, our Lord, our God and King: sing al - le - lu - ia, sing!

GOSPEL: *Luke 23:35-47*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Jesus was hanging on the cross.

The people who were there watching made fun of him, saying,

“He saved other people.

If he is truly the Christ, God’s chosen one, let him save himself.”

The soldiers also made fun of him and said,

“If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

At the top of his cross, there was a sign which said,

“This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals yelled at him,

“Aren’t you the Christ?

Then save yourself and save us too!”

But the other criminal scolded him, and then said to Jesus,

“Jesus, when you come into your kingdom, remember me.”

Jesus said to him,

“I promise you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

It was now about noon, and the sun stopped shining, and it was dark until about three o’clock in the afternoon.

Then Jesus cried out loud,

“Father, take my life. I give you my spirit.”

And he died.

One of the Roman soldiers who saw all of this began to praise God, and he said,

“Surely, this was a great and good man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

remember me.” And for those of us who know ourselves . . .

He is our Lord, our God and King.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

After the first reading, ask the children to recall what other name the people used for David besides King. What does the term Shepherd imply? Why do you think the people called David both Shepherd and King?

After the Gospel, ask the children what kind of king Jesus is. Do you ever use the word Shepherd when we speak of Jesus? Who is the one person in this Gospel who asked Jesus for help? What did he ask? What did Jesus say?

Help the children see that Jesus wants to be our King, a shepherd King, who cares for us and will take care of us if we let him reign in our hearts.