

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: CHRIST THE KING

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in thy well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and

multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Psalm 46

1. God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
2. Therefore we will not fear, though
the earth be moved, * and though
the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;
3. Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble
at its tumult.
4. The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
5. There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God, * the
holy habitation of the Most High.
6. God is in the midst of her; she
shall not be overthrown; * God
shall help her at the break of day.
7. The nations make much ado,
and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth
shall melt away.
8. The LORD of hosts is with
us; * the God of Jacob is our
stronghold.

9. Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, * what awesome things he has done on earth.
10. It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; * he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

SECOND READING:

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,

GOSPEL:

The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

11. "Be still, then, and know that I am God; * I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."
12. The LORD of hosts is with us; * the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Colossians 1:11-20

things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers--all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Luke 23:35-43

"Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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