

NOVEMBER 20, 2022
CHRIST THE KING
SUNDAY



The surprising path of the reign of Christ.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 23:33-43	Christ the crucified king
Monday	Jeremiah 23:1-6	A message of hope
Tuesday	Colossians 1:11-20	The supremacy of God
Wednesday	Psalms 68:1-10	Praise and thanksgiving
Thursday	Matthew 25:34-40	The final judgment
Friday	Isaiah 61:1-7	The good news of deliverance
Saturday	Psalms 46	God is our mighty fortress
Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The sudden coming of salvation

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then he [the criminal] said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He [Jesus] replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:42-43 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Creator God, give us joy that through your suffering our sins are forgiven and our lives are made whole through Christ Jesus, the firstborn of all creation. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food and that you are our strength and protection, nurturing us with love and mercy all our days. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God make you strong and bless you with patience to endure all things.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Jesus Remember Me



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you been surprised by another person's ability to forgive someone?
- Is there something that you could do that God would not forgive? Explain.

DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 23:33-43.

Luke's Gospel helps us to see as Jesus sees, to see the lowly lifted up and the mighty brought down, to see the lost found, the sick healed, and the rich and mighty sent away with empty hands. Luke helps us to understand how Jesus sees a criminal, not as a condemned person but as one needing and ready for salvation. In a world of power and wealth that dominates the masses, it never ceases to challenge our sensibilities that Jesus reigns as king from the place of condemnation, torture, and death. The power of God to rule the universe and to redeem people from their sins happens not with governmental powers or military might but through a path of vulnerability, humiliation, suffering, and death. Through Jesus, a condemned man, a criminal, sees and believes what the world cannot see in that moment.

Discuss: How does the surprising path of Christ's reign impact how we see others?

Pray: **Almighty God, you who rule with mercy and grace, give us eyes to see those who are vulnerable and humiliated and a heart to believe in Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, pray for those in prison and the chaplains and others who serve in prison ministries.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday in the church year. Advent, the next Sunday, is the beginning of the new church year. Think about or make a list of how you were involved in the congregation's ministries in the last year. What were some highlights? How did you grow in your faith? Who did you get to know better? Then describe how you might be involved in the coming year. Conclude with a prayer: **Dear God, we ask that you work in and through our faith community as together we continue to grow in our faith. Through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**



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