

Sunday, November 24, 2024
Christ the King / Lectionary 34, Year B

Prayer of the Day

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.

Semicontinuous First Reading: 2 Samuel 23:1-7

This song attributed to David speaks of a promise: God will establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Indeed, David's dynasty endured more than four hundred years until the exile in 587 BCE. When there was no longer a Davidic king on the throne, this promise was understood to refer to the Messiah.

Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, son of Jesse, the oracle of the man whom God exalted, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the favorite of the Strong One of Israel: The spirit of the LORD speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken, the Rock of Israel has said to me: One who rules over people justly, ruling in the fear of God, is like the light of morning, like the sun rising on a cloudless morning, gleaming from the rain on the grassy land. Is not my house like this with God? For he has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. Will he not cause to prosper all my help and my desire? But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away; for they cannot be picked up with the hand; to touch them one uses an iron bar or the shaft of a spear. And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 93 *Ever since the world began, your throne has been established. (Ps. :)*

The Lord is king, robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The Lord has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

**Ever since the world began, your throne has been established;
you are from everlasting.**

The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted up their voice;
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea,
mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.**

Your testimonies are very sure,
and holiness befits your house, O Lord, forever and forevermore.

Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

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, 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, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 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. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

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?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" 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?" 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." 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."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you oh Christ