

Give thanks for 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 Christ
Wednesday	Jeremiah 22:1-17	A call to repent
Thursday	Philippians 4:4-9	Pray with thanksgiving
Friday	Revelation 21:1-8	The new heaven and new earth
Saturday	Psalm 46	God is our mighty fortress
Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	The sudden coming of salvation

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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. Jeremiah 23:5 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, help us to give thanks for your reign and to forgive as we have been forgiven. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord of lords, and King of kings, with a voice of thanks we gladly sing. Give us now our daily bread, gratefully received in heart and head. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with compassion.







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:

- Would you rather be a shepherd or a king? Explain.
- How would you describe the reign of Christ the King?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Jeremiah 22:3-17 and 23:1-6.

In the Old Testament, kings were referred to as shepherds because of their task to care for the sheep, the people. To understand how the kings (the shepherds) had failed God's task for them, it is helpful to read Jeremiah 22:3-17. The kings had not protected those most prone to abuse in society, that is, foreigners, widows, and orphans. The kings had gained extreme wealth by underpaying the poor and they had blood on their hands for not showing compassion for the needy and the poor. The reading from Jeremiah 23:1-6 announces God's rule on earth. On Christ the King Sunday, we are reminded that Jesus is the "righteous Branch" raised up by God to rule all the earth wisely and to "execute justice and righteousness in the land" (23:5). Jesus' reign is seen from the cross where injustice, pain, and death are overcome by God's eternal reign of justice, mercy, and life forevermore.

Discuss: What is the difference between an earthly king and Christ the King?

Pray: Almighty God, you who expect care for widows and orphans, give us courage and faith to trust in your heavenly powers and serve others through Christ, our Lord and King. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you support someone who is struggling?

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? Think or talk about how you might be involved in the coming church year.

Pray: 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.

