

The Living Word

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year C

23 November 2025

First Reading 2 Sm 5:1-3

They anointed David king of Israel.

All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron. 'Look' they said 'we are your own flesh and blood. In days past when Saul was our king, it was you who led Israel in all their exploits; and the Lord said to you, "You are the man who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you shall be the leader of Israel."' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a pact with them at Hebron in the presence of the Lord, and they anointed David king of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-5. R. see v.2

(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. *(R.)*
2. Jerusalem is built as a city
strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord. *(R.)*
3. For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of
judgement
of the house of David. *(R.)*

Second Reading Col 1:12-20

He has taken us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.

We give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.

Because that is what he has done: he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignties, Powers –
all things were created through him and for him.

Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity.

Now the Church is his body, he is its head.

As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

Gospel Acclamation Mk 11:9. 10

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed is he who inherits the kingdom of David our Father; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 23:35-43

Lord remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'



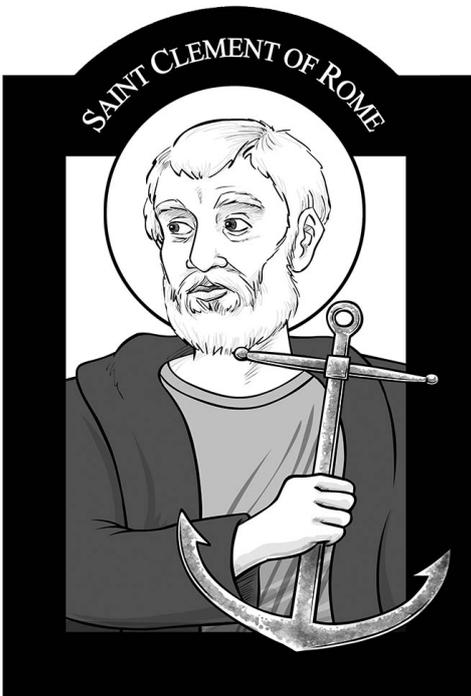
Reflection by Greg Sunter

The choice of today's gospel passage in the lectionary appears to be twofold. Firstly, the inscription above the crucified Christ reads, 'This is the King of the Jews', one of the scriptural references to Christ's kingship – although that reference is more complicated than it first appears. Secondly, the feast of Christ the King marks the end of the liturgical year and the end of the year-long journey through the gospel of Luke. Given that the second half of the gospel is a physical and psychological journey towards Jerusalem and the death that awaits Jesus there, it is fitting that the final reading for the liturgical year is the crucifixion.

When the feast of Christ the King was first conceived by Pope Pius XI in 1925, its intention was to emphasise the majesty and power of Jesus Christ, King and ruler of the world. However, our understanding of 'king' as it can be applied to Jesus has changed significantly in the intervening years. Despite earthly notions of kingship and the role of the Messiah, Jesus completely rejected such expectations and assumed the role of servant to the poor and outcast. As we have seen throughout this year, the gospel of Luke depicts in great detail the emphasis and priority that Jesus gave to the lowly and marginalised.

The theme that flows through the gospel is again captured in the account of the crucifixion. At this most critical point, it is a criminal, crucified alongside Jesus, who responds in faith to Jesus and asks to join Jesus when he enters into his kingdom. The criminal has a much better idea of the nature of the sort of king that Jesus really is than is revealed by the sign that Pilate has had nailed to the cross.

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Pope Clement I was a leading member of the church in Rome towards the end of the 1st century. He was one of the very first bishops of Rome – some lists name him as second in line to St Peter, while others claim he was third or fourth in line. Although little is known about Clement's life, the early Christian writer, Tertullian, wrote that Clement was consecrated by St Peter himself. His letter to the church at Corinth is one of the oldest Christian documents to be written since the New Testament. Tradition suggests that Clement was imprisoned by the Roman Emperor Trajan, during which time he led ministry amongst his fellow prisoners. He was later executed by being tied to an anchor and thrown into the sea.

Place a cross † next to the words that best describe Christ the King

POWERFUL

UNJUST

SELFISH

COMPASSIONATE

MERCIFUL

GREEDY

LOVING

DISRESPECTFUL

PROTECTING

FORGIVING



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



- chosen
- criminals
- fear
- insulted
- Jews
- paradise
- power
- promise
- remember
- save
- wine
- wrong

W	T	T	V	X	Z	M	U	R	E	W	O	P	I	P	G
N	F	H	N	R	Q	D	C	N	C	I	P	N	I	Q	Q
F	M	T	R	Z	M	M	F	R	R	N	S	M	W	K	L
L	N	X	F	E	A	R	N	Q	X	S	Q	O	T	I	O
A	H	M	Z	H	Y	Q	K	Q	W	U	M	J	R	P	Q
X	A	T	F	Z	X	X	J	B	C	L	I	E	E	N	X
L	I	Y	E	Z	G	I	J	R	Q	T	D	W	B	Z	J
L	L	V	W	I	N	E	I	P	N	E	C	S	M	S	B
C	A	W	V	P	J	M	Q	V	A	D	Q	L	E	J	L
S	N	W	T	H	I	Q	H	O	K	R	Y	H	M	F	V
S	S	D	H	N	K	K	J	B	K	N	A	Y	E	P	F
N	Z	S	A	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	E	D	R	I	W
M	N	L	H	W	K	L	P	G	X	E	N	S	I	D	O
X	S	C	V	U	P	O	F	F	N	W	M	W	O	S	S
A	D	S	L	P	F	Y	J	M	T	O	O	G	I	H	E
S	N	Q	C	B	E	L	N	B	L	M	R	Z	P	U	C
F	N	C	C	N	F	B	W	S	P	I	M	W	D	C	B