

Lectionary

You are invited to follow the first two readings while seated, and as is the custom, to just listen, standing if possible, as the Holy Gospel is proclaimed.

Sunday 23rd November Christ the King/next before Advent

The Collect

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of
heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and
King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created
order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns
with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament: Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from the book of Jeremiah.

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, con-
cerning 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 mul-
tiply.
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.'

This is the word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament: Colossians 1:11-20

A reading from Pauls letter to the Colossians.

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 trans-
ferred 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 firstborn of all
creation;

for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created,
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 begin-
ning, 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.

This is the word of the Lord,

All: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull,
they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his
right and one on his left.

[[Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not
know what they are doing.']]

And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders
scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save him-
self 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 derid-
ing him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save your-
self 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously
bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be
plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**