



# Bringing Home the Word

*Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (C)*

**November 23, 2025**

## Hail, Christ Our King!

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

**T**he readings for today's feast create a collage of images that capture different characteristics of Christ's kingship. "Shepherd" assures us that his kingly rule is characterized by tenderness. "King of Israel" locates him squarely within human time and space. "Image of the Invisible God" acclaims his divine origin. "Firstborn of All Creation" places him over the entire created world. "Source of All Created Things" acknowledges him as the model after which all things were fashioned. "Head of the Body, the Church" underscores the intimacy and interrelationship between him and all those joined to him through faith and baptism. "Firstborn of the Dead" acclaims his resurrection and guarantees

the resurrection of those who will follow him into death.

The gospel's image of Christ as the crucified king clearly interprets all the other images. He is a shepherd who protects his flock with his life; he is a king who rules with dedication despite shame and defeat; he is divine yet accepted death on a cross. He was God who became a vulnerable child of earth, a simple man who offered himself as sacrifice, the one through whom we will all enjoy resurrection from the dead.

In the last words of the gospel, Jesus opens the gates of his kingdom to a repentant sinner: "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). This is what all of us long to hear: words that are empty when coming from one who has no authority but are charged with power when spoken by the One who is king over us all. †



*Jesus is a shepherd who  
protects his flock with his life;  
a king who rules with dedication  
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## A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Listen to [Christ's] offer of love and become his one family: in the One Christ, *we are one*. This is the path to follow together, among ourselves but also with our sister Christian churches, with those who follow other religious paths, with those who are searching for God, with all women and men of good will, in order to build a new world where peace reigns!

HOMILY, MAY 18, 2025



## Sunday Readings

### **2 Samuel 5:1-3**

You shall shepherd my people Israel; you shall be ruler over Israel.

### **Colossians 1:12-20**

[Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

### **Luke 23:35-43**

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### ONE? TWO? REFLECTION

- Do I trust Jesus to forgive all who sincerely seek forgiveness?
- Do I try to forgive others as Jesus forgives?



# What Kind of King Is This?

Paige Byrne Shortal

I'm reminded of a lyric by friend and composer David Bailey. On his Christmas album, he sings, "We asked for a king; you sent us a child." This child, whose birth we will celebrate next month, is crucified in today's gospel. The wood of the manger of the newborn king becomes the wood of the cross. In today's second reading, St. Paul includes in his letter to the Colossians what may have been a hymn of the early Church. One line from that hymn: "[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15). A king hanging on the cross, dying an agonizing death, deserted except for a few, brought as low as a human can be brought—this is an image of the invisible God?

What does this say about our God? One thing it says is where God can be found. When all is well, when our children are healthy, our grandchildren thriving, our bank accounts solvent, our test results showing no cancer, our weight just about right, our work satisfying, our homes a haven—we say then that we are blest, and, if we have our wits about us or if we have known harder times—we are even grateful. Then we know God in our gratitude.

But in the hard times, can we remember that God is there, too? Can we remember when the news from the doctor isn't so good, when our children break our hearts, when our work is drudgery, when our energy is so low that we are dragging, when we are mourning the loss of our life partner—can we then remember that God is with us? If we can, we will know this king on the cross, and we will say with the good thief, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42).

And if we have ears to hear, if we can look past the pain, we will hear Jesus' response: "You will be with me in paradise." †

From *Our Parish Community* bulletin, November 25, 2007

***The wood of the manger becomes the wood of the cross.***

## Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "The Incarnation: Why God Wanted to Become Human"  
by Kenneth R. Overberg, SJ

Jesuit Father Pierre Teilhard de Chardin confronted the reality of evolution. As a paleontologist, Teilhard studied fossils and other clues of our ancient past. As a believer, he saw Christ as the *Alpha*, the very beginning of the evolutionary process, in whom all things were created. (See Colossians 1:15.) And he saw that the glorified Christ is the *Omega*, the final point in whom all things will be gathered up. (See Ephesians 1:10.) Teilhard struggled to heal the deep tension between science and religion that led so many to turn away from belief in God. He offered the modern world a positive worldview, uniting evolution and human efforts with the presence and action of Christ.

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Merciful God, we are humbly grateful for your forgiveness, and we ask for the grace to forgive those who have hurt us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

November 24–29

**Monday**, St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions: Dn 1:1–6, 8–20 / Lk 21:1–4


**Tuesday**, Weekday:  
Dn 2:31–45 / Lk 21:5–11

**Wednesday**, Weekday: Dn 5:1–6, 13–14,  
16–17, 23–28 / Lk 21:12–19

**Thursday**, Weekday:  
Dn 6:12–28 / Lk 21:20–28

**Friday**, Weekday:  
Dn 7:2–14 / Lk 21:29–33

**Saturday**, Weekday:  
Dn 7:15–27 / Lk 21:34–36

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