

Readings + The Reign of Christ, Lect. 34, year C + November 23, 2025

Prayer of the Day

O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD.

²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning 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.

³Then 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 multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, who shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In 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."

Psalmody Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;

though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;

behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading Colossians 1:11-20

Paul writes: ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God's glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the dominion of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶for in Christ 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 Christ and for Christ.

¹⁷Christ himself is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together. ¹⁸Christ is the head of the body, the church; Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that Christ might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through Christ God was pleased to reconcile to God's own self all things, whether on

earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of Christ's cross.

Holy Gospel Luke 23:33-43

In the telling of the Passion of Christ, only Luke gives us v. 34 ("Father, forgive"), vv. 36-37 (the soldiers' mocking of Jesus as "King"), and then the full story of the two criminals' conversation with Jesus. Mark and Matthew only say that those crucified with him "taunted" him. Luke (vv. 39-43) tells us the fuller account.

³³ 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. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, God's

chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding Jesus and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in Paradise."