

livingtheword

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Hearing and Living the Sunday Readings

The Solemnity of Christ the King

Reading 1 [2 Sm 5:1-3](#)

In those days, all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and said: "Here we are, your bone and your flesh. In days past, when Saul was our king, it was you who led the Israelites out and brought them back.

And the LORD said to you,

"You shall shepherd my people Israel and shall be commander of Israel." When all the elders of Israel came to David in Hebron, King David made an agreement with them there before the LORD, and they anointed him king of Israel.

Reading 2 [Col 1:12-20](#)

Brothers and sisters:

Let us give thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light. He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to 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 were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him.

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross

Reflection Process / Questions

- **10 mins Reading** - underline a word or idea that strikes you
 - **10 mins Writing** - write what you have heard, write your response to a reflection question(s) that attracts your attention
 - **10 mins Sharing / Praying** - share with a friend or pray to God about livingtheword you have heard.
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- The Feast of Christ the King was initially assigned to the last Sunday in October. In 1969 it was moved to the last Sunday of the Year to highlight the eschatological (end times) importance of Christ's 'Kingship'. Would you consider yourself 'ready' today to meet Christ the King?
 - David was anointed and made 'King' of Israel. But many people in Israel did not want to be like other nations and have a 'King'. They wanted to have only 'God' as their 'ruler'. They were cautious of taxes, abuse of power, wealth and excess that often went with earthly 'kingdoms'. David is invited by God to be first a 'shepherd' of people before being a 'commander of Israel'. What does this show us about God and leadership?
 - Paul's letter to the Colossians today is an ancient baptismal prayer. Imagine the baptismal scene. Thankful. Being given an inheritance. Transferred from living in darkness to light. Redeemed (returning back to your true family, purchased back from slavery). Forgiven. All of this has happened through Jesus - who makes the 'invisible God' visible - the 'ikon' / image of God. What word in this baptismal prayer teaches you about your baptism?

through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven.

Gospel Lk 23:35-43

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."



"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
Luke 23:42

- The mystery of Christianity is revealed as it worships its Lord and King today. Instead of a scene of a throne indicating power and authority and judgment, we have Jesus crucified on a cross giving forgiveness. The way Jesus reveals God's 'kingship' is radically different from the world's power, wealth and honor. Imagine being in the crowd contemplating Jesus (or pray in front of a crucifix!). What questions are stirred up within you? What answers does God reveal to you about leadership. Salvation. Sin. Your life?
- Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us! The promised 'Christ' (Messiah / Saviour) was supposed to be a strong military leader. Instead Jesus is tortured and dies at the hands of Roman soldiers. Yet mysteriously the soldiers refer to him as 'the chosen one', the 'Christ of God', the 'King of the Jews'. The scene is gruesome, but with the eyes of faith the reality taking place is 'glorious'. How would you explain Christ's death as 'glorious'?
- Our human nature demands visible signs. We want to know with our own eyes that God has 'saved' us, forgives us, loves us. How does this crucifixion scene reveal the powerfully hidden way that God is able to work out (y)our redemption? Is God afraid of the mess of our 'humanity'? Are you?
- The Church places before us the paradox of Christ the KING. Instead of a royal procession, Jesus rode a donkey. Instead of a scepter of power, Jesus held a towel. Instead of a throne, Jesus was lifted up on a cross. Disciples replaced an army. Thorns replaced a golden crown. Mercy was his judgment. Humble homes his palace. Meals with sinners his preference. Humble sacrifice of life instead of the military sword. We, the Church, are called to exercise this style of 'leadership' and reflect his 'image' in the world today? How does this challenge you in your lifestyle? Leadership?
- What is one action that you will do to 'livetheword' this week?