

CHRIST THE KING

YEAR B

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Loving Lord God,
you have put us
in the gentle care
of Jesus Christ, your Son.
Make us faithful to him,
our leader,
and always obey
his commands with love.
We make this prayer
through the same Jesus,
who lives with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

FIRST READING: Revelation 1:5-8

This is a reading from the book of Revelation.

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness,
the first to rise from the dead!
He is the ruler of the kings on earth!
Jesus loves us
and has freed us from sin by dying for us.
He has made us priests in a royal kingdom
to serve our God.
All glory and power belong to Jesus
forever and ever,
Amen!

The Lord God says:

["I am the Alpha and Omega,
the beginning and the end.]
I am the Lord God who is, who always was,
and who will come again."

This is the Word of God.

[] Reader may omit text that appears in brackets.

RESPONSE: Psalm 23

RESPONSE:

You are my shep-herd, you are my friend. I want to fol-low you
al-ways, just to fol-low my friend. (Fine)

VERSES: to Response

1. I have all I need. You are my Shep-herd, your hand is with me.
2. When path-ways are dark, you are there guid-ing me, keep-ing me safe.
3. You give me to eat. You make me wel-come, you fill me with joy.
4. Your good-ness I know. Your love will be with me all of my life.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Our readings focus on Christ as supreme ruler of all nations and peoples. In our readings from Revelation, Christ is revealed as the eternal God, who is, was and always will be, the Alpha and Omega. In his reign, we have been made priests to serve our God. The emphasis is on Christ triumphant.

Our Gospel reading portrays Jesus as a misunderstood king on trial for his life. His kingship is not denied, but he insists that it is not of this world. He is king of truth. If he is king of truth for us, we listen to his voice.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

1. "When you help my broth-ers and sis-ters,
2. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ial (Fine)

1. ev-'ry time you do it to me."
2. "Ev-'ry time you do it to me."

GOSPEL: John 18:33b-37

This is a reading from the Gospel of John.

Pilate asked Jesus,

"Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered,

"Are you asking this because you think I am
or because others told you about me?"

Pilate said,

"I am not a Jew!

Your own people and leaders
brought you here for me to judge you!
What have you done wrong?"

Jesus said,

"My kingdom is not a kingdom of this world."

Pilate said,

"So, you are a King?"

Jesus answered,

"You say that I am a King.
I was born into this world
to give witness to the truth.
Anyone who lives by the truth,
listens to my voice."

This is the Good News of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

With children it will not be easy to distinguish between the concept of "king" as we know it in the world and the "kingship" of Jesus.

Nevertheless, this distinction must be made. We would advise against all comparisons to earthly kings, whether verbal or concrete. To compare Jesus to earthly kings is to miss the point of his kingship, which is spiritual. The children should see Jesus as the one—and only one—who reigns in our hearts.

We suggest the reflection be made on the first reading. The reading from Revelation gives a wonderful review of all we have seen and heard of Jesus during the previous Sundays. We might review this with the children so that they (and we!) may conclude that, indeed, Jesus is Lord.

He is the faithful witness: recall the stories of Jesus continuing in his prophetic mission, even when he was rejected.

He is the first to rise from the dead: recall the stories of Jesus' power over death in the raising of the little daughter of Jairus and of his own Resurrection.

He is the ruler of kings on earth: you might recall the epiphany.

He loves us and freed us from sin by dying for us: you might recall the many times Jesus said, "your sins are forgiven" and again the stories of the Resurrection.

He has made us priests in a royal kingdom to serve our God: recall the many times Jesus called us to service—you must be the servant of all, and so forth.

Yes, "all glory and power belong to Jesus forever and ever. Amen."

The Minister of the Word will be able to recall specific Sundays that highlight the above attributes of Christ. This can only serve as a wonderful review of the glory and power of Jesus in the world and in their lives.