

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

I rejoiced when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

Psalm

The Lord sits as king for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Communion Antiphon

Let us pray that all peoples will acclaim Jesus as Lord.

Almighty and merciful God,
you break the power of evil and make all things new
in your Son, Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe.
May all in heaven and earth acclaim your glory
and never cease to praise you.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to reflect further
2 Samuel 5: 1-3; Psalm 121 (122); Colossians 1: 2-20; Luke 23: 35-43

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'Truly, I say to you,
today you will be
with me in paradise.'

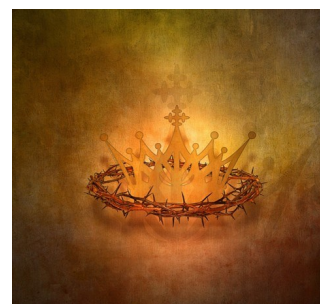
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PREGO LEAFLET

Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe
Year C, 23rd November 2025

'Jesus, remember me'



This Sunday brings us to the close of the liturgical year – a day on which we celebrate the kingship of Jesus. His is a kingdom of love, mercy, peace and hope, of which we are invited to be part.

In the **First Reading**, an earthly king, David, unites Israel under his rule, having first been chosen by God. David is part of God's plan, and the people confirm him.

The **Psalm** celebrates Jerusalem, the Holy City, where God's people come together. We are reminded of God's presence at the centre of our faith and our community.

The writer of the letter to the Colossians (**Second Reading**) speaks of the authority and power of Jesus. Through Christ's sacrifice on the cross we gain our freedom, and the forgiveness of our sins.

In the **Gospel**, we return to the foot of the cross of our crucified King. Here, the promise of salvation to the penitent criminal reminds us of the depth of Jesus's love and mercy for all.

This Sunday also sees the Jubilee celebration of World Youth Sunday. So as **Pilgrims of Hope**, we pray, with Pope Leo, that young people will see the light of the Gospel grow every day, within and around them.



Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,
grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery,
may render your majesty service
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.

Second Reading Colossians 1: 12–20

Brothers and Sisters: Let us give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain 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 by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

As I come to my prayer, I allow myself time to settle in whatever way works best for me. I consciously set aside any cares or concerns I am carrying.

I begin by slowly reading the text, noticing where my attention is drawn. I then read it again, perhaps spending time over any words that first drew me.

What am I feeling? Is there something the Lord wants to tell me?

I take time to listen.

Returning to the text, how do I envisage *‘the domain of darkness’* and *‘the kingdom of God’s beloved Son’*?

I ponder any images that come to mind.

Perhaps I recognise times in my life when it felt as if darkness surrounded me. What was it that helped me return to a place of light?

What words would I use to describe how that felt?

I read again the words the author uses to help the Colossians grow in their wisdom and understanding of Jesus, the Messiah.

How do these words help me? What particularly touches me?

Or maybe something troubles or unsettles me? I take time to share with Jesus – my King, yet also my friend – whatever arises for me.

In time, I draw my prayer to a close with my own words of thanks to God.

Gospel Luke 23: 35–43

At that time: The rulers scoffed at Jesus, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ 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 railed at Jesus, saying, ‘Are you not the Christ? Save yourself 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 justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.’ And he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.’

I take a few deep breaths as I become aware of God’s presence with me. Perhaps I feel God’s loving gaze; his gentle touch on my outstretched hand. Or perhaps I simply know he’s there, as ever patiently waiting just for me.

When I’m ready, I read through this familiar passage. Maybe it’s strange at first to be revisiting this time of almost unbearable suffering and sorrow, on the day we also celebrate the glory of Christ, the Universal King?

I ponder, and perhaps let myself be drawn closer to the foot of the cross. Is there something I want to say to Jesus, something I want to do to ease his suffering? I stay with him as long as I need to.

What do I see as I turn to look at the scene of crucifixion?

How do I feel as I hear the jeers and taunts of the people gathered there?

Is there something I want to say to them?

Perhaps above all, though, through the clamour and bitterness, I hear and see again the boundless love and compassion of Jesus in his promise to the one who repents.

What is Jesus teaching me in this moment?

Are there areas of my life in which I need to be more compassionate?

Are there hurts or offences I’ve struggled to forgive ...?

or opportunities I’ve missed to respond to another’s suffering?

As I draw my prayer to a close, I turn back to Jesus and share with him what comes from the depth of my heart.