

Sunday, November 23, 2025 - Christ the King Sunday

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

David was the shepherd boy who became king.

His descendant, Jesus, the Son of David, is the Good Shepherd and our King.

How beautiful and powerful that God takes a profession that was looked down upon and uses it to describe His relationship with us.

1 Samuel 16: 11 – Jesse to Samuel re David - "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep."

1 Samuel 17: 28 – David's oldest brother Eliab heard him talking with the men. Eliab's anger was kindled against David. He said, "Why have you come down? With whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness?"

Psalms 23: 1 – The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

John 10: 11 – I am the good shepherd.

Colossians 3: 17 – Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Colossians 3: 23-24 – Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters. You serve the Lord Jesus.

3-4 - 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. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

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

Where and how is Jesus like a Shepherd in your life?

Where and how is Jesus like a King in your life?

Kingdom vs. Kin_dom

Second Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

11-12 - May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father.

Where do you most need the strength that comes from Christ's glorious power?

What are you able to endure with patience and joy because you have that strength?

Where do you need to grow in your having patience and joy even in difficult circumstances?

Which of these descriptions of Jesus speak(s) most powerfully to you?

13 - He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.

14 - In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

16 - In him 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 him and for him.

17 - He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

18 - He is the head of the body, the church.

18 - He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead.

18 - He has first place in everything.

19 - In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

"How Jesus Became God: The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee" by Bart D. Ehrman (March 2014)

"How God Became Jesus: The Real Origins of Belief in Jesus' Divine Nature" by five New Testament scholars (March 2014)

20 - Through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven.

20 - He made peace through the blood of his cross.

Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

Three of the seven last words of Jesus appear in the Gospel of Luke -

34 - Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.

43 - Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

46 - Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

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.

Matthew 27: 38, 44 - Two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

Mark 15: 27, 32 - With him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

John 19: 18 - There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

I am so glad that Luke told more of the story - of how one thief came to repentance and faith.

Why do you think Luke included something that none of the other three Gospel writers included?

What are some of the stories and parts of the Bible that you are so glad got included?

39-43 - One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? 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 have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

All this criminal asked for - probably all he dared ask for - was to be remembered - not to be forgotten. He did not want his life to end as one big zero.

Jesus gave him far more than he asked for. He was given the promise of being with Jesus in Paradise.

When has God given you far more and far better than what you dared ask for?