

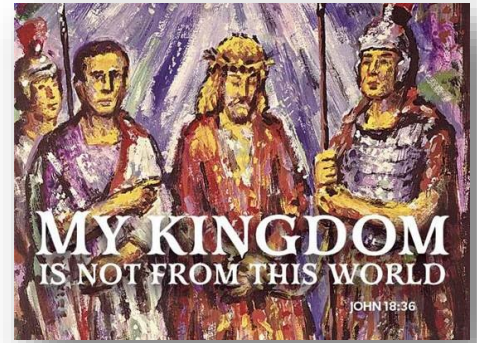
About the Readings on November 24, 2024

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Christ the King

Last Sunday after Pentecost

Hoping to celebrate the lordship of Christ in a world of increasingly secular and non-Christian empires, Pope Pius XI inaugurated in 1925 a Sunday dedicated to Christ as king. Originally Roman Catholics celebrated Christ the King on the last Sunday in October. When the Roman Catholics proposed the three-year lectionary after the Second Vatican Council, Christ the King was moved to the final Sunday of the liturgical year. The Revised Common Lectionary has retained the festival. Its emphasis on the eschatological majesty of Christ leads well into Advent.



[Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14](#)

The Daniel excerpt is appointed for Christ the King because it is a significant Old Testament passage cast in monarchical imagery that since the first century Christians have applied to Christ. The Ancient One on a throne is God, and the one like a human being who stands before God is Jesus Christ, whom all peoples now serve.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

Having heard Daniel's vision about the "one like a human being," we respond by joining in [Psalm 93](#). The psalm praises YHWH as king, who has conquered the sea and who reigns with justice. On this festival day, biblical praise of God as king suggests to Christians Jesus Christ reigning from the cross.

[Revelation 1:4b-8](#)

The Revelation excerpt is laden with language that describes Christ. He is faithful to God's call; he died as a witness to his faith; he is the first recipient of the final resurrection; he, not the Roman emperor, is King of kings; his blood freed us from sin; his authority has made the community a kingdom of priests who serve God; he rules all things; he will come again with the clouds, that is, as the presence of God, who is God past, present, and future, the A and Z of the Greek alphabet, the beginning and ending of everything. The passage indicates that no one metaphor is sufficient in our descriptions of God, important to note on this festival on which one single image is celebrated.

[John 18:33-37](#)

Today the lectionary appoints a reading from John, since Mark's gospel does not elaborate on the metaphor of Christ as king. In this excerpt, Jesus is paradoxically a king since, rather than exert his own dominion over others, he testifies to the truth of God. The trial before Pilate is part of the way of the cross: the king will reign on the cross.