

## **Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King, November 20**

**The Collect:** Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Track 1 & 2 Old Testament: Jeremiah 23:1-6 read from the English Standard Version Bible Anglicized**

23 “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. 2 Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the Lord. 3 Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. 4 I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord.

5 “Behold, the days are coming, declares 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. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

### **Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

### **Track 1 Psalm: Canticle 16 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,

that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**Track 2 Psalm: Psalm 46 read from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer**

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, \*  
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \*  
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, \*  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The Lord of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

6 God is in the midst of her;

she shall not be overthrown; \*

God shall help her at the break of day.

7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; \*

God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

8 The Lord of hosts is with us; \*

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, \*

what awesome things he has done on earth.

10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; \*

he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,

and burns the shields with fire.

11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; \*

I will be exalted among the nations;

I will be exalted in the earth.”

12 The Lord of hosts is with us; \*

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

### **Epistle: Colossians 1:11-20 read from the God's Word Translation**

11 We ask him to strengthen you by his glorious might with all the power you need to patiently endure everything with joy. 12 You will also thank the Father, who has made you able to share the light, which is what God's people inherit.

13 God has rescued us from the power of darkness and has brought us into the kingdom of his Son, whom he loves. 14 His Son paid the price to free us, which means that our sins are forgiven.

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

16 He created all things in heaven and on earth,  
visible and invisible.

Whether they are kings or lords,  
rulers or powers—

everything has been created through him and for him.

17 He existed before everything  
and holds everything together.

18 He is also the head of the church, which is his body.

He is the beginning,  
the first to come back to life  
so that he would have first place in everything.

19 God was pleased to have all of himself live in Christ. 20 God was also pleased to bring everything on earth and in heaven back to himself through Christ. He did this by making peace through Christ's blood sacrificed on the cross.

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people**

**Gospel: Luke 23:33-43 read from the Holman Christian Standard Bible**

33 When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified Him there, along with the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. [34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing."] And they divided His clothes and cast lots.

35 The people stood watching, and even the leaders kept scoffing: "He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is God's Messiah, the Chosen One!" 36 The soldiers also mocked Him. They came offering Him sour wine 37 and said, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!"

38 An inscription was above Him:

THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 Then one of the criminals hanging there began to yell insults at Him: "Aren't You the Messiah? Save Yourself and us!"

40 But the other answered, rebuking him: "Don't you even fear God, since you are undergoing the same punishment? 41 We are punished justly, because we're getting back what we deserve for the things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!"

43 And He said to him, "I assure you: Today you will be with Me in paradise."

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**On November 20 we celebrate the life of Edmund, King of East Anglia. Read from *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*.**

Edmund ascended the throne of East Anglia at the age of fifteen, one of several monarchs who ruled various parts of England at that period in her history. The principal source of information about the martyrdom of the young king is an account by Dunstan, who became Archbishop of Canterbury ninety years after Edmund's death. Dunstan had heard the story many years before from a man who claimed to have been Edmund's armor bearer.

Edmund had reigned as a Christian king for nearly fifteen years when Danish armies invaded England in 870. Led by two brothers, Hinguar and Hubba, the Danes moved south, burning monasteries and churches, plundering and destroying entire villages, and killing hundreds. Upon reaching East Anglia, the brothers confronted Edmund and offered to share their treasure with him if he would acknowledge their supremacy, forbid all practice of the Christian faith, and become a figurehead ruler. Edmund's bishops advised him to accept the terms and avoid further bloodshed, but the king refused. He declared that he would not forsake Christ by surrendering to pagan rule, nor would he betray his people by consorting with the enemy.

Edmund's small army fought bravely against the Danes, but the king was eventually captured. According to Dunstan's account, Edmund was tortured, beaten, shot through with arrows, and finally beheaded. By tradition, the date of his death is November 20, 870.

The cult of the twenty-nine-year-old martyr grew very rapidly, and his remains were eventually enshrined in a Benedictine monastery in Bedericesworth—now called Bury St. Edmunds. Through the centuries, Edmund's shrine became a traditional place of pilgrimage for England's kings, who came to pray at the grave of a man who remained steadfast in the Christian faith and loyal to the integrity of the English people.

**Let us pray:** O God of ineffable mercy, you gave grace and fortitude to blessed Edmund the king to triumph over the enemy of his people by nobly dying for your Name: Bestow on us your servants the shield of faith with which we can withstand the assaults of our ancient enemy; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**