

Readings for November 23, 2025

Reign of Christ Sunday

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ² Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³ Then 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. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, who shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, who 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 live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Psalm: Psalm 46

I will be exalted among the nations. (Ps. 46:10)

¹ God is our ref-^luge and strength,
a very present^l help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the^l earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths^l of the sea;**

³ though its waters^l rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble^l with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-^ly of God,
the holy habitation of^l the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall^l not be shaken;
God shall help it at the^l break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the^l kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth^l melts away. R**

⁷ The Lord of^l hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob^l is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works^l of the Lord,
what desolations God has brought up-^l on the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in^l all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the^l shields with
fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that^l I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted^l in the earth.”**

¹¹ The Lord of^l hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob^l is our stronghold. **R**

Second Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the dominion of the beloved Son of God, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in Christ 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 Christ himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ Christ is the head of the body, the church; Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through Christ to reconcile to God's own self all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.

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. ³⁴ [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding Jesus and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?" ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."