

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Revive our congregations, synods, and national church body to reflect the love, justice, and kinship of your kingdom. Raise up diverse leaders (like Justus Falckner, Jehu Jones, and William Passavant, whom we commemorate today) who teach and serve your people. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nourish parched lands and bring relief to flooded places. Protect wildlife habitats and endangered species, that the chorus of creation's praise resounds with joy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Grant wisdom to the leaders who govern, legislate, and deliberate on our behalf (local officials may be named). Advance your nonviolent reign of justice-seeking love through their work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** (commemoration of Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, 1748) Psalm 76. **Tuesday** Revelation 11:15-19. **Wednesday** Ezekiel 30:20-26. **Thursday** (Day of Thanksgiving [USA]) Psalm 25:1-10. **Friday** 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22. **Saturday** (Andrew, Apostle) John 1:35-42. **First Sunday of Advent** Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36.

CELEBRATE November 24, 2024 (Christ the King)

Volume 55, Number 4

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$5.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Robert Buckley Farlee. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year B* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our website at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org). Lectionary year B. 13 of 13  
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# Celebrate

Christ the King  
November 24, 2024

Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, the people still longed for a true king to set things right. He would have the king's title of Anointed One (Messiah); he would be the "one like a human being" (Son of Man) given dominion in Daniel's vision. Jesus is given these titles, even though he is nothing like an earthly king. His authority comes from the truth to which he bears witness, and those who recognize the truth voluntarily listen to him. We look forward to the day he is given dominion, knowing his victory will be the nonviolent victory of love.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

To the community for whom this passage was written, it seemed as though the oppression they were experiencing would never end. Daniel's message is: It shall end. The Ancient One, who is judge, will call all nations to account and will give dominion to "one like a human being," the Messiah.

As I watched,  
thrones were set in place,  
and an Ancient One took his  
throne,  
his clothing was white as snow,  
and the hair of his head like  
pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames,  
and its wheels were burning  
fire.

<sup>10</sup>A stream of fire issued  
and flowed out from his  
presence.

A thousand thousands served  
him,  
and ten thousand times ten  
thousand stood attending  
him.

The court sat in judgment,  
and the books were opened.

<sup>13</sup>As I watched in the night visions,  
I saw one like a human being  
coming with the clouds of  
heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One  
and was presented before him.

<sup>14</sup>To him was given dominion  
and glory and kingship,  
that all peoples, nations, and  
languages  
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting  
dominion  
that shall not pass away,  
and his kingship is one  
that shall never be destroyed.



Ev - er since the world be - gan, your  
throne has been es - tab - lished.

The LORD is king, robed in majesty;

the LORD is robed in majesty and <sup>1</sup>armed with strength.

The LORD has made the world so sure that it can- <sup>1</sup>not be moved.

<sup>2</sup>**Ever since the world began, your throne has <sup>1</sup>been established; you are from <sup>1</sup>everlasting. R**

<sup>3</sup>The waters have lifted up, O LORD, the waters have lifted <sup>1</sup>up their voice; the waters have lifted up their <sup>1</sup>pounding waves.

<sup>4</sup>**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers <sup>1</sup>of the sea, mightier is the LORD who <sup>1</sup>dwells on high.**

<sup>5</sup>Your testimonies are <sup>1</sup>very sure, and holiness befits your house, O LORD, forever and for- <sup>1</sup>evermore. R

*The book of Revelation begins by celebrating the Almighty God, who spans all of time. Similarly, Jesus is celebrated as the firstborn from the dead who rules over the world's rulers. He is the one whose return we eagerly await.*

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

*In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.*

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” <sup>35</sup>Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup>Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom

were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” <sup>37</sup>Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”