

Continually give thanks to the Father.

2 Samuel 5:1-3

Psalm 122:1-5

Colossians 1:12-20

Luke 23:35-43

In the first reading David is reminded that he was told by God to "shepherd the people and be commander of Israel." He makes an agreement with the elders before the Lord, and is anointed King of Israel.

The psalmist rejoices in going to Jerusalem where he will enter the temple, the House of the Lord, and give thanks. It is there that the judgment seats for the house of David are set up, and it is there praise is given to the Lord's name.



In the second reading Paul reminds the Colossians that they are made worthy to share in the lot of the saints and are to continually give thanks to the Father. All of this is possible through Jesus, the first born of all creatures, the One who is before all else that is, the head of the Church, the One who reconciles everything in the peace made through the blood shed on the cross.

In the Gospel the crucified Jesus is jeered by onlookers, poked fun at by soldiers, and blasphemed by a criminal. But the one crucified next to him who acknowledges Jesus' innocence will be brought to paradise that very day.

**Let us give thanks to the Father;
He sent the Son who ushered in the Kingdom of God;
The Holy Spirit brings its wisdom to us.**

Christ the King

Today's readings remind us that God's ways are not our ways. We are endowed with enough strength to endure our difficulties gracefully and even joyfully. The Israelites were always delighted to be able to enter the Temple and pray thankfully to the Father of all. Now we have the Son, the image of the invisible God and in him all things visible and invisible are created, through him, and for him. Raise your mind to the Son of the Most High and ask to be led to his Kingdom.

The domain of Christ the King is the Kingdom of Heaven which he initiated on earth. Jesus proclaimed, *Reform your lives! The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.* (Matt 4:17). Our involvement in it begins with faith that is like *the yeast which rises* (Matt 13:33), or the *mustard seed* (Matt 13:31-32), so tiny but growing into a large shrub where birds can nest; it is *like finding a buried treasure and then letting go of everything else in order to gain it* (Matt 13:44-46).

The opponents of Jesus are always trying to dislodge the Kingdom from its rightful place and undermine its importance in the life of the faithful, but Jesus made it clear that the Kingdom's permanence is forever empowered and we are called to do our share in building it up. Christ's kingdom is here to stay!