

Readings for Sunday 24th November 2024

The First Reading: 2 Samuel 23:1-7

The last words of David

These are the last words of David:

‘The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse,
the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High,
the man anointed by the God of Jacob,
the hero of Israel’s songs:

‘The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me;
his word was on my tongue.

The God of Israel spoke,
the Rock of Israel said to me:

“When one rules over people in righteousness,
when he rules in the fear of God,
he is like the light of morning at sunrise
on a cloudless morning,
like the brightness after rain
that brings grass from the earth.”

‘If my house were not right with God,
surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant,
arranged and secured in every part;
surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation
and grant me my every desire.

But evil men are all to be cast aside like thorns,
which are not gathered with the hand.

Whoever touches thorns
uses a tool of iron or the shaft of a spear;
they are burned up where they lie.’

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The First Reading: Daniel 7:9,10,13,14
A vision of God surrounded by his court

As I looked,
'thrones were set in place,
 and the Ancient of Days took his seat.
His clothing was as white as snow;
 the hair of his head was white like wool.
His throne was flaming with fire,
 and its wheels were all ablaze.
A river of fire was flowing,
 coming out from before him.
Thousands upon thousands attended him;
 ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.
The court was seated,
 and the books were opened.
'In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man,
coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and
was led into his presence.
He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of
every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that
will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)

Lord, remember David
and all his self-denial.

He swore an oath to the Lord,
he made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:
'I will not enter my house
or go to my bed,
I will allow no sleep to my eyes
or slumber to my eyelids,
till I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.'

We heard it in Ephrathah,
we came upon it in the fields of Jaar:
'Let us go to his dwelling-place,
let us worship at his footstool, saying,
"Arise, Lord, and come to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.
May your priests be clothed with your righteousness;
may your faithful people sing for joy.'"

For the sake of your servant David,
do not reject your anointed one.

The Lord swore an oath to David,
a sure oath he will not revoke:
'One of your own descendants
I will place on your throne.
If your sons keep my covenant
and the statutes I teach them,
then their sons shall sit
on your throne for ever and ever.'

[For the Lord has chosen Zion,
he has desired it for his dwelling, saying,
'This is my resting place for ever and ever;
here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it.
I will bless her with abundant provisions;
her poor I will satisfy with food.
I will clothe her priests with salvation,
and her faithful people shall ever sing for joy.

'Here I will make a horn grow for David
and set up a lamp for my anointed one.
I will clothe his enemies with shame,
but his head shall be adorned with a radiant crown.']

Psalm 93

The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength;
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.

Your throne was established long ago;
you are from all eternity.

The seas have lifted up, LORD,
the seas have lifted up their voice;
the seas have lifted up their pounding waves.

Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea –
the LORD on high is mighty.

Your statutes, LORD, stand firm;
holiness adorns your house
for endless days.

The Second Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

Christ is coming on the clouds

John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

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

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

‘Look, he is coming with the clouds,’

and ‘every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him’;

and all peoples on earth ‘will mourn because of him.’

So shall it be! Amen.

‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.’

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel: John 5:21-29

The Son's authority to judge and to save

Jesus said, 'For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son does not honour the Father, who sent him.

'Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

'Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out – those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise be to you, O Christ

OR

The Gospel: John 18:33-37

Jesus' kingdom not of this world

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?'

'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?'

Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'

'You are a king, then!' said Pilate.

Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise be to you, O Christ