

# November 25, 2007

Reign of Christ

## Theme: Jesus and Public Policy

### Revised Common Lectionary:

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

### Roman Catholic Lectionary:

2 Samuel 5:1-3

Psalms 122:1-5

Colossians 1:12-20

Luke 23:35-43

### CALL TO WORSHIP

As we gather on this Sunday to celebrate and consider the reign of Christ, we remember the stirring words of George Frederick Handel in his immortal cantata, The Messiah: "The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever."

### OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty.

**People:** FOR ALL THAT IS IN THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH ARE YOURS.

Leader: Riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all.

**People:** AND NOW, OUR GOD, WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU AND PRAISE YOUR GLORIOUS NAME.

*1 Chronicles 29:11-13*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

It's tempting, Lord, to cut corners,  
to take the easy way rather than the right way,  
to shave the truth to make ourselves look better,  
to rationalize when our conscience bothers us,  
to postpone necessary changes.  
Pardon us, we pray, for our vacillations  
and move us on to a solid commitment,  
following Jesus Christ, our Lord.

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus Christ, who is the first-born of the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth, loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.

*Adapted from Revelation 1:4-6*



## PRAYER OF PETITION

(That we may be a positive influence in our world)

Creator and sustainer God, who loved the world so much that you gave your Son, help us to follow in your Son's footsteps in helping us to create a better world.

Help us as we promote new levels of justice and equality in the laws of our land. Help us as we conserve the rich traditions of the past without being immobilized by them.

Help us to seek the healing of the sick, the rehabilitation of the prisoner, the victory over addictions. Open our eyes to the needs of those who live next door and of those who sit next to us in church.

In a world of anger and animosity, help us to make peace. Help us to seek the advancement of those who are underprivileged and the education of those who seemingly have little opportunity in life. Help us to set a personal example that will inspire and encourage others to live a life that will in turn inspire and encourage others.

## OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Having expressed our gratitude to God in songs and prayer, let us now express that gratitude with our tithes and offerings.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Receive these gifts as an expression of the gratitude that we feel for all you have done for us, both materially and spiritually, and help us to express that thanksgiving daily with our lives.

## BENEDICTION

Go in peace,  
for the One who came in humility will come again in glory,  
and the One who came as a crying child will come again as triumphant Lord.

## SEED THOUGHT

Jesus and Public Policy

Colossians 1:11-20

"I've become convinced that although Jesus' message was personal, it was not private. I've been convinced that it has everything to do with public matters in general and politics in particular — including economics and aid, personal empowerment and choices, foreign policy, and war."

Brian D. McLaren, *The Secret Message of Jesus*,  
W. Publishing Group, 2006, p. 10

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