

**THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**  
*At the Solemn Eucharist at 11 o'clock*  
**THE REIGN OF CHRIST**

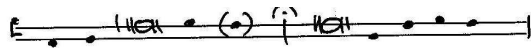
*The Old Testament reading is the opening section of Jeremiah 23, where Yahweh promises to gather a remnant of his people, raise up for them responsible leaders, and provide eventually a wise and just king in the Davidic line. The response is Benedictus (Luke 1.68-79), Zechariah's prophecy that envisions God's raising up a Saviour from the house of David. The Epistle offers one of the most extraordinary christological hymns in the New testament, praising Christ as creator and reconciler of the cosmos. For the Gospel, we have Luke's account of Jesus's crucifixion, with its distinctive emphasis on Jesus's forgiving spirit and merciful remembrance of one of the criminals who was crucified with him. Several motifs in this passage relate to the overall theme of the reign of Christ the King.*

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23.1-6**

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. 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. 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. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 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."

The word of the Lord *R/. Thanks be to God*

**GRADUAL: Luke 1.68-79 [Benedictus]; Tone VIII,2**



Bless-ed / be the Lord God of **Is-ra-el** : for he hath visited, and redeem-ed his peo-ple.  
 And hath / raised up a mighty salvation for **us** : in the house of his ser-vant Da-vid;  
 As he / spake by the mouth of his holy **Pro**-phets :  
 which have been **since** the world be-gan:  
 That we / should be savèd from our **en-e-mies** : and from the hand of **all** that hate us;  
 To per/form the mercy promised to our fore-**fa**-thers :  
 and to remember his **ho**-ly co-ven-ant;  
 To per/form the oath which he sware to our forefather **A-bra**-ham :  
 that **he** would grant us.  
 That we / being deliverèd out of the hands of our **en-e-mies** :  
 might serve **him** with-out fear,  
 In ho/liness and righteousness be-**fore** him : all the **days** of our life.  
 And thou, / child, shalt be callèd the Prophet of the **High**-est :  
 for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord **to** pre-pare his ways;  
 To give / knowledge of salvation unto his **peo**-ple : for the remis-**sion** of their sins,

Through the / tender mercy of our **God** :  
 whereby the day-spring from on high hath **vi**-si-ted us,  
 To give / light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of **death** :  
 to guide our feet in-**to** the way of **pe**-ace.

**SECOND READING: Colossians 1.11-20**

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him 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. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace through the blood of his cross.

The word of the Lord

*R/. Thanks be to God*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Mark 11.9,10**

Alleluia. Alleluia. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Alleluia.

**GOSPEL: Luke 23.33-43**

*R/. Glory be to thee, O Lord*

And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified Jesus, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS**. And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

The Gospel of Christ

*R/. Praise be to thee, O Christ*

C-34/11