

Prayers of Intercession

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

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for preachers, missionaries, evangelists, and teachers who carry your forgiveness and love to the world. Fill their words and actions with compassion and kindness so that your truth will shine. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to liberate all of creation. We pray for all living things longing for the freedom to flourish, from ancient trees and wild grasses to endangered animals and rare insects. Give human beings compassionate hearts to care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us into the way of peace. Direct the members of international alliances in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Give them the humility and wisdom to make just decisions to benefit all. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 76. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Clement, Bishop of Rome, c. 100; Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, 1927) Revelation 11:15-19. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Justus Falckner, 1723; Jehu Jones, 1852; William Passavant, 1894; pastors in North America) Ezekiel 30:20-26. **Thursday** (Day of Thanksgiving [USA]; commemoration of Isaac Watts, hymn-writer, 1748) Psalm 25:1-10. **Friday** 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22. **Saturday** Luke 21:20-24. **First Sunday of Advent** Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36.

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Celebrate

Christ the King
November 21, 2021

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.
¹⁰A 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.
¹³As 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.
¹⁴To 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.

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.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

and on his account all the

tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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,⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

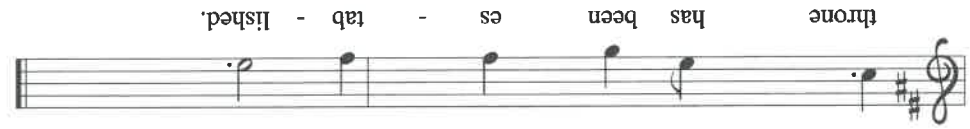
To him who loves us and freed

us from our sins by his blood,⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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 kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"³⁵ 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?"³⁶ 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."³⁷ 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."



³The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted ' up their voice;

the waters have lifted up their ' pounding waves.

⁴Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers ' of the sea,

mightier is the LORD who ' dwells on high.

⁵Your testimonies are ' very sure,

and holiness befits your house, O LORD,

forever and for - ' evermore. **R**