

CHRIST THE KING

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the **King** of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 5:1-

In those days: All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, 'Behold, we are your bone and flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the Lord said to you, "You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel." ' So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a

covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel.

PSALM

Ps 122(121):1-2. 4-5. R cf.1

℟ Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **℟**

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. As it is decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. There were set the thrones for judgement, the thrones of the house of David. **℟**

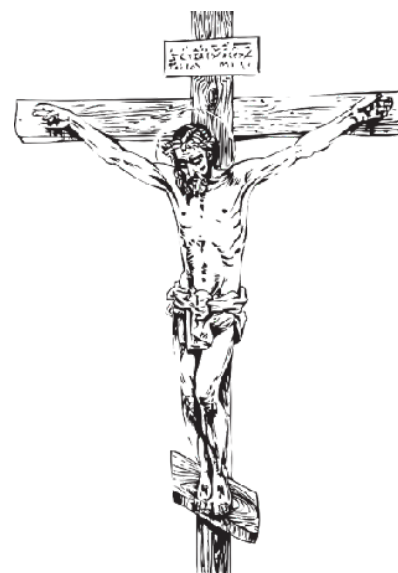
SECOND READING

Colossians 1:12-20

Brothers and Sisters: Let us give thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to 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 by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia...

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

GOSPEL

Luke 23:35-43

At that time: The rulers scoffed at Jesus, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there railed at Jesus, saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.' And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' And he said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice by which the human race is reconciled to you, we humbly pray, that your Son himself may bestow on all nations the gifts of unity and peace. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in his heavenly kingdom. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

REFLECTION

Gossip is a weapon and it threatens the human community every day; it sows envy, jealousy and power struggles. It has even caused murder. Therefore, discussing peace must take into account the evil that can be done with one's tongue

This isn't just about 2,000 years ago, Francis warned, "it happens every day", he said, "in our heart, in our communities". We might welcome someone and speak well of him the first day but little by little that worm eats away at our minds until our gossip "banishes him" from good opinion. That person in a community who gossips against his or her neighbour is, in a sense, killing him. "The Apostle John", the Pope said, "in chapter 3 of his First Letter, v. 15, tells us that anyone who hates his brother is a murderer". And the Pope immediately added: "we are used to gossip, to spreading rumours, and we often transform our communities as well as our family into 'hell' where this kind of crime that leads "to killing one's brother and sister with one's tongue is manifest".

In order "that there may be peace in a community, in a family, in a country, in the world, we must start by being with the Lord. And where the Lord is there is no envy, there is no crime, there is no jealousy; there is brotherhood. Let us ask this of the Lord: never to kill our neighbour with our tongue, and to be with the Lord just as we shall all be in heaven".

*POPE FRANCIS
The threat of gossip
Monday, 2 September 2013*