

Christ the King

Luke 23:33-43 and Colossians 1:11-20 (NRSV)

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

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.

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

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.

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah 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!"

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.

There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

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.

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

And through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."