

Read - Think - Pray

Proper 29A - Reign of Christ, 21-25 November, Prepared by: Angus Kelly

Monday

Psalm

Psalm 95:1-7a

Think:

Sometimes we worship God because God has earned our worship through his faithfulness (so to speak). But sometimes we need to worship God because God is God; King above all gods, ruler of the depths and of the skies.

For the Psalmist the world ends up in the sky - today we know so much more about galaxies far away; the Lord rules there also.

Pray:

Lord you are God of the whole universe, and yet - within my heart you allow me to choose whether I crown you King or not.

Thank you for granting me that choice.

Help me to let you reign more and more in me.
Amen.

Tuesday **Old Testament**
Ezekiel 34:11-16 and 20-24

Think:

It won't do any harm to read the whole passage. God criticises the strong sheep for abusing the weaker ones; it is so easy to use our strengths to overpower others; it almost seems natural. But often, our ability to speak well; our good looks :), our power and money enable us to trample on others - even if we're not aware of it.

Pray:

Lord, help me not to be a bully; help me to discern the times when I use my powers to overpower others and rather help me to build them up; with only you as King.

Amen

Wednesday **Epistle**
Ephesians 1:15-23

Think:

This passage paints a glorious picture of Christ reigning as King. Verses 22 and 23 elevate the church to great heights; even as Christ's servant in the world. The church is Jesus' idea and serves as a model of the Kingdom to come.

Yet, in all honesty we often fall far short of this hope.

Pray:

Pray for the church; and pray for the patience and the courage to work with the church to help it to become more and more the Kingdom bringing community that God intends it to be.

Perhaps think of any small schisms or problems in your local or the wider church community and pray that God would help us to submit to him.

Thursday

Gospel

Matthew 25:31-46

Think:

This is a disturbing passage; Jesus judging between the sheep and the goats. The reality of the fact that our treatment of others - may in fact be our treatment of Jesus himself.

Immediately I think of the beggar I walked past at my local store. My reluctance to welcome strangers, to share my resources.

Is this passage good news or bad news to us?

Pray:

We live in a world that has many problems. Much poverty, much hunger - overpopulated prisons. With God's help - and working wisely - not motivated by guilt, but motivated by love we can change the world.

Pray for wisdom to know how to bring the Kingdom.

Friday

Next week's gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Think:

This coming Sunday marks the beginning of Advent and a new liturgical year. At Advent we re-anticipate the birth of Christ at Christmas; and we anticipate the coming of Christ at his second coming.

In this passage we read of stars falling from the heavens and the powers of the heavens shaken. Jesus coming marks a turn around for the universe.

Pray:

Pray that we would be open to the birth of Christ in our world during this advent season; that we would be ready for his coming.