

Clement Manor

PASTORAL CARE

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RESOURCE PACKET

Our Lord Jesus, King of the Universe

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Gospel

Luke 23:35-43

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said,

"He saved others, let him save himself

if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God."

Even the soldiers jeered at him.

As they approached to offer him wine they called out.

"If you are King of the Jews, save yourself."

Above him there was an inscription that read,

"This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,

"Are you not the Christ?

Save yourself and us."

The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,

"Have you no fear of God,

for you are subject to the same condemnation?

And indeed, we have been condemned justly,

for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,

but this man has done nothing criminal."

Then he said,

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

He replied to him,

"Amen, I say to you,

today you will be with me in Paradise."



Bob is a retired gentleman who volunteers every week at the St. Vincent de Paul meal program. Week after week, he would serve meals, offer a smile, and call everyone by name — even those the world had forgotten. A young volunteer, Leo, who was there to earn community service hours for a class asked him, "Why do you always come here? You could be doing something fun with your family rather than serving the poor."

Bob, the older gentleman smiled and said, "Because every time I serve someone a meal, I imagine I'm serving it to the King."

Today we celebrate the feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

Our readings today remind us that God's presence and power often appear in unexpected places — not on thrones or in palaces, but in humble service and love.

The first reading, speaks of one of those unexpecting places as it compares the King to a shepherd, "You shall shepherd my people." And what does a shepherd do? They protect, they guide and they care for their flock. And that image leads us to salvation in Christ. So, how could Jesus be present at a meal program? He could be making the food, serving the meal, or being served. Our 2nd reading speaks of "the image of the invisible God... in him all things hold together." Jesus is a King reigning not by force, but by holding us together in love. He is the King who forgives, who brings unity, who makes peace through His body and blood given for us.

And in the Gospel, we find Jesus — not seated on a throne, but hanging on a cross. The sign above Him says, "This is the King of the Jews." Soldiers mock Him, leaders sneer, and one of the criminals taunts Him saying, "if you are a King, save yourself and save me too!" But the criminal, the good thief says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus, in royal mercy, turns and says, "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

That's the kind of King we serve — one whose power is forgiveness, one whose power is unifying, one whose power brings peace through the His sacrifice of the Eucharist.



That last line from the Gospel speaks to me. "TODAY, you will be with me in Paradise!"

Bob, the older gentleman at the meal program understood something about paradise. It's not a place we wait for, it's a place where love is lived. When we forgive someone who has hurt us, when we feed the hungry bringing other together, and when we remember those forgotten by the rest of the world, that's when God's kingdom breaks into the world. That's paradise here on earth: a place where hearts are forgiven, where love is present in the serving of a warm meal, and where the forgotten are remembered. "Jesus Remember Me when you come into Your Kingdom."

Paradise on earth is not perfection; it is love lived.

It's when we recognize the face of Jesus in others — even in the poor, the broken, the inconvenient.

Jesus promises: "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

If paradise on earth is where Jesus' love is lived, paradise in heaven is where that love is complete — where we will all be remembered in God's love.

Think today about where you see "paradise on earth?" Is it through your actions, through service to others or through other small acts of love and kindness or are you in need of others to share with you, paradise.

May we see His kingdom in our everyday acts of love and may we look forward to the day when we hear those same words spoken to the good thief and to all of us:

"Today you will be with me in Paradise."



Holy Father's Monthly Intention November 2025
Monthly Intention: For the prevention of suicide
Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.



Merciful Father, source of all life and love, we lift before You our brothers and sisters burdened by despair. Grant them the grace to feel Your presence in their darkness, and surround them with communities of care, compassion, and hope. May Your Spirit inspire us to be instruments of encouragement, offering listening hearts, gentle words, and steadfast support. Help those who struggle to recognize the beauty of life, the dignity You have bestowed upon them, and the joy found in Your eternal promise. Through Christ, who conquered death and brings light to all, may every wounded soul discover healing, peace, and renewed purpose. We ask this through the Christ our Lord. Amen.

If you have any personal intentions you would like to add they will be added to our list, contact Tom 546-7980 or tbrefka@clementmanor.org:

Prayer Intentions:

- For those residents who are sick:
 May they feel the healing presence of God
- For the Church throughout the world: that she may faithfully proclaim Christ as King and joyfully witness to His compassion and truth.
- For all leaders of nations: that they may govern with integrity, seeking justice for the poor, peace for all peoples, and dignity for every human life.
- For those who feel powerless, forgotten, or burdened by illness, fear, or grief:
 that Christ the King may surround them with His strength, comfort, and hope.
- For all who have died, especially our loved ones and those with no one to pray for them: that they may enter the eternal Kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world.



Thanksgiving Prayer

Loving and Generous God, we come before You with grateful hearts. Thank You for the blessings You pour into our lives—family, friendship, faith, and the daily gifts we often overlook. As we gather in this season of gratitude, open our eyes to those in need and fill us with a spirit of compassion and service. May our thank-

fulness draw us closer to You and to one another. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Save the Date— Advent by Candlelight Thursday, December 11, 6:00pm

Chapel and Channel 3.1



A Thanksgiving Prayer

God of all blessings, source of all life, giver of all grace:

We thank you for the gift of life:

for the breath that sustains life,

for the food of this earth that nurtures life,

for the life-giving love of family and friends.

We thank you for the mystery of creation:

for the beauty of the Earth that the eye can see,

for the unfolding universe that draws us beyond our imaginings.

We thank you for the communities to which we belong:

for families, for friends,

for neighbors and for companions at work.

We thank you for the strangers who welcome us into their lives and whom we invite to be part of ours.

We thank you for our brothers and sisters of all ages, all races, all nations and all faiths.

We thank you for the multitude of ways that you call us to steward the gifts of creation and to serve others in your name.

We thank you for this day, for the companionship we share and the bountiful goodness of the bread we break together.

God of all goodness, we pray in thanks for your presence among us as we gather together, and your promise to be with us now and always. AMEN.



November 24

St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions

O God, source and origin of all fatherhood,

who kept the Martyrs Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions faithful to the Cross of your Son, even to the shedding of their blood, grant, through their intercession, that, spreading your love among our brothers and sisters, we may be your children both in name and in truth. 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

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, PRAY FOR US

November 25

St. Catherine of Alexandria

O God, Who distinguished Your holy virgin and martyr Catherine by the gift of great wisdom and virtue, and a victorious combat with the enemies of the Faith, grant us, we beseech You, through her intercession, constancy in the Faith and the wisdom of the saints, that we may devote all the powers of our mind and heart to Your service. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN

St. Catherine, PRAY FOR US.

Thanksgiving Prayer 4th Thursday of November

Father in Heaven, Creator of all and source of all goodness and love, please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving thanks.

Thank you for all the graces and blessings. You have betowed upon us, spiritual and temporal: our faith and religious heritage. Our food and shelter, our health, the loves we have for one another, our family and friends.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and blessing throughout the coming year.

This we ask in the Name of Jesus, Your Son and our Brother. Amen.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

Daily Reading for **Sunday November 23, 2025** Reading 1, Second Samuel 5:1-3 Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4, 4 -5 Gospel, Luke 23:35-43 Reading 2, Colossians 1:12-20



Daily Reading for **Monday November 24, 2025** Reading 1, Wisdom 3:1-9 Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 125:1-5 Gospel, Matthew 10:17-22

Daily Reading for Friday November 28, 2025
Reading 1, Daniel 7:2-14
Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81
Gospel, Luke 21:29-33

Daily Reading for **Tuesday November 25, 2025** Reading 1, Daniel 2:31-45 Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61 Gospel, Luke 21:5-11

Daily Reading for **Wednesday November 26, 2025** Reading 1, Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 Gospel, Luke 21:12-19

Daily Reading for **Thursday November 27, 2025** Reading 1, Daniel 6:12-28 Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 Gospel, Luke 21:20-28

Clement Manor is proudly sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity



Daily Reading for **Saturday November 29, 2025** Reading 1, Daniel 7:15-27 Responsorial Psalm, Daniel 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87 Gospel, Luke 21:34-36

Daily Reading for **Sunday November 30, 2025** Reading 1, Isaiah 2:1-5 Responsorial Psalm, Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Gospel, Matthew 24:37-44 Reading 2, Romans 13:11-14

