

## Bible Challenge November 16-22, 2015

### INTRODUCTION

*November 22 is Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the church year. Even after Israel had experienced the vagaries of kings, they 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.*

### 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.*

**Adventure Challenge:** Daniel 7

**Explorer Challenge:** With a study Bible or commentary, explore the meaning or historical background of the symbols and images in Daniel 7.

### PSALM: Psalm 93

*Ever since the world began, your throne has been established. (Ps. 93:2)*

**Adventure Challenge:** Compare Psalm 93 with Psalm 97, which uses somewhat different imagery to describe God as King. What elements are the same?

**Explorer Challenge:** Psalm 93 is known as an "enthronement psalm." Do a little research to find out what that term means and how it applies to this Psalm..

### SECOND READING: Revelation 1:4b-8

*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.*

**Adventure Challenge:** Revelation 1.

**Explorer Challenge:** The theme of this week's readings in kingship. Compare Revelation 1:4b-8 with Revelation 21:1-8, which was one of our readings two weeks ago. Is the focus the same?

### GOSPEL: John 18:33-37

*In John's gospel, the story of Jesus and Pilate presents two different ways of exercising power: through force or with love.*

**Adventure Challenge:** John 18.

**Explorer Challenge: Option A.** Identify the different figures in John 18 who exercise or attempt to exercise power. What different kinds of authority do they claim or try to use? With what results?

**Option B.** John 18 contains many questions and answers. Make a note of all the questions, who asks them, and how they are answered. How many questions are answered by another question? Are there patterns?

### 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.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. (Mark 11:9)