

Christ the King Sunday, November 26, 2023

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

*Jesus was God spelling himself out in language
humanity could understand. —S.D. Gordon*

In its September 2018 issue, *The Atlantic* magazine asked the question: “Whose untimely death would you most like to reverse?” If you could turn back time and save a great leader, who would you pick? And what difference would it make?

The year 2023 is just one month shy of going into the annals of history. You can probably think of quite a few celebrities who have died in 2023. I am writing this in May 2023, and already we’ve noted the deaths of Tina Turner, Burt Bacharach, Richard Belzer, Raquel Welch, Stella Stevens, Bobby Hull, David Crosby and many others.

Did the death of any celebrity so far in 2023 hit you harder than another?

The response to *The Atlantic* question was varied. Abraham Lincoln, Walt Disney, Elvis, Buddy Holly, JFK, RFK and others were mentioned.

What about Jesus? Would you want to reverse the death of Jesus?

Today marks the end of the church calendar. Many congregations observe this Sunday as Christ the King Sunday. We remember the sign posted on the cross: “This is the King of the Jews.” We end the liturgical year by remembering that Jesus died for us.

Next Sunday, Advent is upon us and we start over, headed now, not to a cross on Calvary but to a cradle in Bethlehem.

As horrific as was the crucifixion, I am eternally grateful for Jesus’ love and willingness to lay down his life for me.

*All hail the power of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!*

—Edward Perronet (1780)

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, the words of John Newton seem apt: “How sweet the name of Jesus sounds, in a believer’s ear! It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fear.” Amen.

*Blessings on Christ the King Sunday,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Metz*



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- Sunday:** 2 Peter 1-3
- Monday:** 1 Timothy 1-3
- Tuesday:** 1 Timothy 4-6
- Wednesday:** 2 Timothy 1-4
- Thursday:** Titus 1-3
- Friday:** 1 John 1-2
- Saturday:** Psalms 136-138

HOW MANY SQUARES DO YOU SEE?

(Solution next week)

