



**DAILY SCRIPTURE & PRAYER RESOURCE for the  
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY  
20 MAY – 27 MAY 2012**

**DAY 8—SUNDAY 27 MAY**

**United in the Reign of Christ**

**Scripture**

**I Chronicles 29:10-13** *It is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all*  
**Psalm 21:1-7** *You set a crown of fine gold on his head*  
**Revelation 3:19b-22** *To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne*  
**John 12:23-26** *Whoever serves me, the Father will honour*

*To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne (Revelation 3:21)*

**Reflection**

Jesus Christ is the first born from the dead, who has humbled himself and been exalted. Christ is not covetous of his victory, but shares his reign and exaltation with all people.

David's hymn in Psalm 21, born of the joy of the king and the people of Israel before their temple was built, expresses the truth that everything happens by grace. Even an earthly monarch can be an image of the reign of God, *in whose hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.*

The king's psalm of thanksgiving continues this idea. The Christian tradition also gives it a messianic sense: Christ is the true king, full of blessing and life, the perfect presence of God among people. In a certain sense this image can also refer to people. Are not human beings the crowning achievement of creation (see Psalm 8)? Does not God want us to become 'co-heirs with his Son' and 'members of his royal household'?

The book of Revelation / the Apocalypse opens with brief letters to seven local churches in Asia Minor (Revelation 1-3). Yet they constitute a message to the Church in all times and places. Those who admit Christ into their homes will all be invited to share with the Lord in the banquet of eternal life. The promise regarding sitting on thrones, previously announced to the twelve apostles, is now extended to all who are victorious.

*Where I am, there will my servant be also.* We can link Jesus' *I am* to the unutterable Name of God. The servant of Jesus, whom the Father honours, will be where his Lord is, who has sat on the right hand of the Father in order to reign.

Christians are aware that unity among them, even though requiring human effort, is above all a gift of God. It is a share in Christ's victory over sin, death, and the evil which causes division. Our participation in Christ's victory reaches its fullness in the new creation, the new 'heavens and earth'. But our common witness to the Gospel starts now. We should announce in a way that is credible and visible, to the people of our day and age, that Christ's victory overcomes all that keeps us from sharing fullness of life with him and with each other.

**For reflection/discussion**

1. Read again the 'Introduction to the theme for the year 2012' and the comments above on Psalm 21. How are we to make sense of verses 8-13 of the Psalm?
2. In what ways do false humility and a desire for earthly glory manifest themselves in our lives? In the church life?
3. How do we express together our faith in the reign of Christ?
4. How do we live out our hope in the coming new creation?
5. What are some other ways of describing, the 'reign of Christ' and the 'kingdom of God'?

**Prayer for the Day**

Almighty God, ruler of all, teach us to contemplate the mystery of your glory. Grant that we may accept your gifts in each other with humility, and respect each person's dignity. May your Holy Spirit strengthen us for the spiritual battles which lie ahead, so that united in Christ we may reign with him in glory. Grant this through him who humbled himself and was exalted, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

**Acknowledgement**

This resource for Christian unity is based on the international material for the 2012 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which originated with the Churches in Poland, and was agreed by the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity. It has been adapted for use in Australia by the Faith and Unity Commission of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

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