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| A | <p><u>The Mystery of the Responsorial Psalms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Christ is always present in His Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. He is present in His word, since it is He Himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church.” • “In the readings ... God speaks to His people, opening up to them the mystery of redemption and salvation and offering them spiritual nourishment; and Christ himself is present in the midst of the faithful through his word.” • Among the readings, the Responsorial Psalm holds a crucial place “because it fosters meditation on the word of God.” | <p>Sacrosanctum Concilium #7</p> <p>GIRM 55 QS4p27</p> <p>GIRM 61 QS4p27</p> |
| B | <p><u>The Responsorial Psalms and other Scripture readings for Sundays</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first reading, selected from the OT (Easter Season’s first readings are taken from the Acts) is picked for its correlation with the Gospel. • The Responsorial Psalm, and in particular, the “antiphon” – the response itself – is selected to help us reflect on the first reading. It also prepares us to hear Christ in the Gospel. The Responsorial Psalms may fit the particular liturgical readings, and so provide a context for hearing it there. Another will be selected that reflects or develops a particular theme, and so on. • The second reading does not always relate to the Psalm, so we will not use it for the purpose of this topic. | <p>QS4p27</p> |
| C | <p><u>Explaining the Purpose of the Responsorial Psalm by Examining the readings for the Solemnity of Christ the King</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First reading, Psalm, and Gospel readings for the Solemnity of Christ the King. • Note the antiphon of Psalm 23 brings out the figure of the True Shepherd, echoing the image of God as the shepherd in the first reading who will “shepherd [his] own sheep”. • The shepherd in Psalm 23 is not only the Shepherd for the Israelites but for all humanity; He is the Shepherd of you and me. Therefore, our prayer of thanksgiving and trust overflows from the deepest dwelling of our hearts. | <p>RS4p1-2</p> <p>SN1</p> |

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2014-20145
Psalms #4: The Responsorial Psalms**

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The faithful respond in unity by using the words of the Psalms during liturgical celebrations. The response, made as a community, collects our personal meditations, unites them, and offers them to God. • Psalm 23 stands between the first reading and the Gospel. The first reading describes God as a shepherd and judge who separates the sheep and the goats, judging those who have sinned against the law of love. In the Gospel, Jesus emerges as that judge and king, separating the sheep and goats according to the way in which they have loved him in others. Psalm 23 reveals how the shepherd in OT prefigures the judge who will come in glory on the last day; the fulfillment of Christ the King. • Shepherd, one who personally cares for and looks after his sheep, a shepherd who rescues the lost and heals the sick and injured. He also speaks as judge of “the sleek and the strong” and “rams and goats”. Similarly, Christ the King and Shepherd will demand his flock to help the poor; feed the hungry and thirsty; welcome strangers; cloth the naked; care for the sick and visit the imprisoned. • Reflection: the relationship between the King David and Christ the King. What is the meaning of INRI on Christ’s cross? | <p>Jn 19:19-22 Rev 19:11-15</p> |
| <p>D</p> | <p><u>Praying with the Psalms</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remain quiet and prepare your heart for prayer. 2. Recall the readings in the Liturgy of the Words 3. Re-read the first reading; retell it in your own words. 4. Re-read the Psalm and reflect on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the antiphon saying? • How does it relate to the first reading? • How does it lead us into the first reading? 5. Re-read the Gospel and reflect on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the Gospel saying? • How are the Gospel, first reading, and the Psalm related? 6. Reflect on the readings: what message do you think God is giving you through these readings? 7. Recite “Gloria to God” to conclude the prayer. | <p>Ref. Advent Prayer Card</p> |

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SPECIAL NOTES

Readings for the Solemnity of Christ the King

Reading 1 EZ 34:11-12, 15-17

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly.

As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.

Responsorial Psalm PS 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6

R: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose. (R)

Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. (R)

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (R)

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come. (R)

Gospel MT 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."