



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*Daily Devotion at Zion + August 2023 AD + **Little Christs***

Little Christs

The name “Christian” comes from Holy Scripture. “The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch” (Acts 11:26). But what does “Christian” mean?

It means “little Christ.” Christians are *little christs*. So what does “Christ” mean? Christ, or *christos*, is a Greek word for the Hebrew word *messiah*, which means “anointed one.” A *christ*, in Scripture, is someone anointed by God.

Priests, chosen by God to offer sacrifice, were anointed with oil, and so were kings chosen to rule. They were all, technically, *christs*, *messiahs*, anointed ones. Yet their anointing merely pointed forward to the greatest anointing of all in Jesus Christ.

God poured His Holy Spirit, the “oil of gladness,” on Jesus at His baptism, and now, through the gift of Holy Baptism and the Word of God, that same Spirit comes to anoint all who believe in Jesus. Jesus is the big Christ; His believers are the little christs, anointed in Him.

In devotion, Christians exercise their spiritual anointing. Like the priests of old, they offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and they rule with their King in faith, hope, and love. With Christ, our Anointed One, the jar of sweet oil was poured out, and it hasn’t stopped pouring yet!

About the Cover Art

Those who read the Scripture lessons this month in 1 and 2 Samuel will read of King David, anointed by God to rule Israel. This painting by Francois-Léon Benouville, finished in 1842, portrays the moment of David’s anointing. Fresh from the fields were he tended sheep, David kneels, as his father and brothers look on and Samuel pours the sacred oil on his head. Notice the older brother, centrally located, who looks at Samuel almost in disbelief! God’s anointing often defies expectations.

Daily Readings for the Week of Trinity 8 (July 30)

S 1 Samuel 17:50—18:4
Romans 10:4-17
Matthew 23:29-39

M 1 Samuel 18:5-30
Acts 11:19-30
Mark 1:29-45

T 1 Samuel 19:1-24
Acts 12:1-17
Mark 2:1-12

W 1 Samuel 20:1-23
Acts 12:18-25
Mark 2:13-22

Th 1 Samuel 20:24-42
Acts 13:1-12
Mark 2:23—3:6

F 1 Samuel 21:1-15
Acts 13:13-25
Mark 3:7-19a

Sa 1 Samuel 22:1-23
Acts 13:26-43
Mark 3:19b-35

*These readings correspond
to pages 304—340 in Vol-
ume II of For All the Saints.*

Daily Readings for the Week of Trinity 9 (August 6)

S 1 Samuel 23:7-18
Romans 11:33—12:2
Matthew 25:14-30

M 1 Samuel 24:1-22
Acts 13:44-52
Mark 4:1-20

T 1 Samuel 25:1-22
Acts 14:1-18
Mark 4:21-34

W 1 Samuel 25:23-44
Acts 14:19-28
Mark 4:35-41

Th 1 Samuel 28:3-20
Acts 15:1-11
Mark 5:1-20

F 1 Samuel 31:1-13
Acts 15:12-21
Mark 5:21-43

Sa 2 Samuel 1:1-16
Acts 15:22-35
Mark 6:1-13

*These readings correspond
to pages 340—374 in Vol-
ume II of For All the Saints.*

Daily Readings for the Week of Trinity 10 (August 13)

S 2 Samuel 1:17-27
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 25:31-46

Th 2 Samuel 4:1-12
Acts 16:25-40
Mark 7:1-23

M 2 Samuel 2:1-11
Acts 15:36—16:5
Mark 6:14-29

F 2 Samuel 5:1-12
Acts 17:1-15
Mark 7:24-37

T 2 Samuel 3:6-21
Acts 16:6-15
Mark 6:30-46

Sa 2 Samuel 5:22—6:11
Acts 17:16-34
Mark 8:1-10

W 2 Samuel 3:22-39
Acts 16:16-24
Mark 6:47-56

These readings correspond to pages 374—410 in Volume II of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Trinity 11 (August 20)

S 2 Samuel 6:12-23
Romans 14:7-12
John 1:43-51

Th 2 Samuel 11:1-27
Acts 19:11-20
Mark 9:2-13

M 2 Samuel 7:1-17
Acts 18:1-11
Mark 8:11-21

F 2 Samuel 12:1-14
Acts 19:21-41
Mark 9:14-29

T 2 Samuel 7:18-29
Acts 18:12-28
Mark 8:22-33

Sa 2 Samuel 12:15-31
Acts 20:1-16
Mark 9:30-41

W 2 Samuel 9:1-13
Acts 19:1-10
Mark 8:34—9:1

These readings correspond to pages 410—442 in Volume II of For All the Saints.