

**Friday 8 March 2024**

# Edward King



Edward King was born in 1829 and educated at Oriel College, Oxford, the spiritual home of the Oxford Movement which championed Anglo-Catholic styles of worship.

He was not an able student. Nevertheless, he was ordained in 1854 as curate of Wheatley near Oxford. He was soon known as a remarkably effective pastor and counsellor.

In 1862 he was appointed as the Principal of Cuddesdon, a recently founded theological college near Oxford. He led it for ten years during which time the spiritual life of the college flourished.

He was appointed Bishop of Lincoln in 1885. He was the first bishop in the Church of England to wear a mitre since the Reformation and was persecuted mercilessly for it. He died in 1910. There were soon calls for the Church of England to declare him a saint—it's first in nearly 400 years.

**Sermon** © Revd Dr Paul Monk.

**Liturgy and prayers of intercession** © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

**Bible readings** © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please click on the links.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

## Introduction and welcome

**HYMN 1** [How deep the Father's love for us](#) (click on this link to hear the hymn)  
[How deep the Father's love for us](#) (instrumental) (click on this link)

## The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**All** **Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All** **And also with you.**

## The Preparation

**All** **Almighty God,**  
**to whom all hearts are open,**  
**all desires known,**  
**and from whom no secrets are hidden:**  
**cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**  
**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,**  
**that we may perfectly love you,**  
**and worthily magnify your holy name;**  
**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.'

And the second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All** **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

In sorrow for our sins and with faith in his mercy,  
let us turn to the Lord,  
for with him there is mercy and plenteous redemption.

**All**    **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**    **Amen.**

*It is usual to omit the Gloria during Lent*

### **The Collect for Edward King**

O God, our heavenly Father,  
who raised up your faithful servant Edward  
to be a bishop and pastor in your Church and to feed your flock:  
Give abundantly to all pastors the gifts of your Holy Spirit,  
that they may minister in your household  
as true servants of Christ and stewards of your divine mysteries;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**All**    **Amen.**

## First reading

A reading from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

*Ezekiel 34:11-16*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' So we can say with confidence,

'The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?'

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

*Hebrews 13:1-8*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 2 **Holiness is your life in me**[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

[Jesus said], 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. *Matthew 5:10-12*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

Edward King was the most unlikely trendsetter. He could be socially awkward and was academically limited. Like Jesus, He taught a spirituality that was both ancient but also was often threatening in its novelty. Like his Lord and Saviour, King was tried before secular courts. Yet, despite this unhelpful pedigree, he became one of the best-loved bishops of his day and was revered as a saint in his own long time. It was prayer that helped him through his excruciations, and that made him Christlike.

King was a man of prayer because he wanted to become like Jesus. His model of prayer is well explained by today's reading from Ezekiel, '[God says], "I will feed them on the mountains ... , by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture".' King knew God offers good, spiritual nourishment to all regardless of background, wealth, or status.

This talk of 'prayer' does not mean asking for things—prayers that start, 'Dear Lord, please mend / help / support ... ' He was preferred a soaking up of the warm loving presence of God. The fruit of this prayer is not intended as either prosperity or health but simply the comfort of knowing God. Furthermore, by knowing God, we are more likely to trust Him and know where He is calling; if genuine, His holiness will inevitably 'rub off'. Edward King knew all this and so can we.

By contrast, a soul devoted to many things—material things, pleasures, cares, and worries—is like a computer clogged with a virus or warming a house with leaky windows: a significant proportion of the effort is wasted. It perhaps explains

why the author of the Letter to the Hebrews insists, 'Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you"'. Jesus' trademark prayer in Matthew 6 says much the same thing but in a different way: he says, 'Give us today our *daily* bread' or, again, 'Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven'. As a paraphrase, Jesus is saying that we should not use prayer to seek *our* will, the results of which are usually disastrous.

There are more ways of praying than people willing to pray. We should therefore explore, finding what works for us: we should search and maybe innovate while ensuring a way of praying that is authentic and spiritual. There are a great many such methods; ask someone who prays often for advice.

It could be argued that today is different: seeking comfort from God was easier for a prophet writing in Bronze Age, centuries before Jesus; perhaps it was easier for Jesus himself and the writer to the Hebrews during the Iron Age, but God (speaking through today's Epistle) reminds us, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.' He is saying that the spiritual blessings that come from seeking and serving God do not change because the God who bestows them is utterly incapable of change.

Edward King prayed and became the person that God wanted him to be. That he became a College Principal and Bishop is irrelevant: what matters is that he gave comfort and love because, through prayer, he received them from God himself. He surpassed painful obstacles and it was his prayer to become Christlike that overcame them all.

## The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
the source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## **Prayers of intercession**

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, Lord of life,

**All In your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, light of the world,

bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...

Jesus, Lord of life,

**All In your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, bread of life,

give food to the hungry ...

and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,

**All In your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,

be with us and all who follow you in the way ...

Deepen our appreciation of your truth

and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,

**All In your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,

recover the straggler,

bind up the injured,

strengthen the sick

and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus, Lord of life,

**All In your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,  
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...  
Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,

**All In your mercy, hear us.  
accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.**

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## The peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

**All And also with you.**

**HYMN 3 Come down O love divine** (please click on this link to hear the hymn)  
**Come down O love divine** (instrumental) (please click on this link)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

## The Dismissal

God give you grace to follow his saints  
in faith and love and steadfastness  
and the blessing of God the Almighty:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

**HYMN 4 For all the saints** (please click on this link to hear the hymn)  
**For all the saints** (instrumental) (click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**



# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now we give thanks, most gracious God,  
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses  
and glorified in the assembly of your saints.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

We, your holy Church, acclaim you.

In communion with angels and archangels,  
and with all who served you on earth and worship you now in heaven,  
we raise our voice to proclaim your glory,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with Edward King and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All**     **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All**     **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**All**     **Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

**All** We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.

Communion is distributed.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Merciful God,  
who gave such grace to your servant Edward King  
that he served you with singleness of heart  
and loved you above all things:  
help us, whose communion with you  
has been renewed in this sacrament,  
to forsake all that holds us back from following Christ  
and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord..

**All** Amen

**All** Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.