

**Sunday 22 November 2022**

# Christ the King



**Sermon** © the Revd Robin Wilding.

**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.

All the hymns are hosted on YouTube. Please click on the links to hear them.

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

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

## Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 [The Servant King](#)

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

## 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.**

Jesus says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand’.

So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**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.

## **The Gloria**

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

**All** Glory be to God in Heaven,  
Songs of joy and peace we bring,  
Thankful hearts and voices raising,  
To creation's Lord we sing.  
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,  
Glory be to God our King:  
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,  
Bore the load of this world's sin;  
Only Son of God the Father,  
You have brought us peace within.  
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Now your glorious reign begin:  
Now your glorious reign begin.

**You O Son of God are Holy,  
You we praise with one accord.  
None in heav'n or earth is like you,  
Only you are Christ the Lord.  
With the Father and the Spirit,  
Ever worshipped and adored:  
Ever worshipped and adored.**

### **The Collect for Christ the King**

God the Father,  
help us to hear the call of Christ the King  
and to follow in his service,  
whose kingdom has no end;  
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, one glory.

**All Amen.**

### **First reading**

A reading from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.' *Jeremiah 23:33-43*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Colossians

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. *Colossians 1:11-20*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 Be still for the presence of the Lord**

[\(click here\)](#)

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for

our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.' *Luke 23:33-43*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

What sort of a King is our King Jesus?

**An expected King** Genesis 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah nor the ruler's staff from his feet until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.

Jacob's dying promises to his sons include this interesting comment to Judah—there is one coming to whom the rule belongs – here from years back comes the promise of one to come who is special and amazing

**A celebrated King** On Palm Sunday the people celebrate and recognise and adore the King come among them. Jesus shows every prophesied mark of the expected King and the Hosannas ring—here he is, he's come, now things will be different. Now our dreams will be met, now God will rule and we will be vindicated.

**A disappointing King** But after 5 days of this King they crucify him. What changed? Well they didn't want this King to be *that* different. The trouble is our expectations so often—we say we want God's rule but he has to change the things we want changed, do things our way or ... we will have none of this King. Note the comments by people at the crucifixion from our Gospel reading today. And note also that in the temptations in the desert Jesus has already rejected the Kingdom of human rule and wealth and glory for the path God has set before him.

What these people want is an end to foreign rule, the Romans driven into the sea, Israel restored and in charge of its own destiny (a terrible phrase that has spawned much evil—always watch for it in political rhetoric!). Have any of them asked what God wants? Have any taken note of the scriptures of the Suffering Servant and wondered? No because us humans are good at wanting what we want and now.

Simon bar-Kochba was the leader of the third and last Jewish rebellion against the Romans, proclaimed Messiah by many of his people and the end result was the catastrophic destruction of the nation and the scattering of the Jews. So much for military power. 200 years later the emperor was a Christian! Whose kingdom won, I wonder

What our God is after is a Kingdom where the wounded and the powerless and the failures find in Him a presence and a power and a grace that turns the world upside down. Where violence is rejected, where earthly power is not desired, where God is followed to the uttermost.

**The coming King** But there's more! There is coming a Day, a day when the Kingdom comes in power, when sin and death and evil are destroyed to rise no more. A day when rule rests in God alone, grace and power made manifest, love wins.

Let us work and witness that that Day may come and finally that 'the Lamb might receive the reward of his suffering'.

## 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

Let us with confidence present our prayers and supplications to the throne of grace. We pray for all those in positions of power, that they may govern with wisdom and integrity, serving the needs of their people.

May your reign come;

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church, the sign of your reign,  
that it may extend your welcome to people of every  
race and background.

May your reign come;

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Christians of every denomination,  
that together we may come to understand  
the royal priesthood you bestowed on us in baptism.

May your reign come;

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose commitment to truth  
brings them into conflict with earthly powers,  
that they may have the courage to endure.

May your reign come;

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community of faith,  
that attentive to your word  
we may always worship in spirit and in truth.

May your reign come;

**All Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God,  
you have taught us that the power of the heart  
is greater than the power of wealth and might.  
Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our King;  
to him be glory and power for ever.

**All Amen.**

Merciful Father,

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



## The peace

To crown all things there must be love,  
to bind all together and complete the whole.  
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.  
And the peace of the Lord be always with you.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you,  
**All And also with you.**

**HYMN 3** [Jesus shall take the highest honour](#) (please click to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

## The Dismissal

God the Father,  
who has given to his Son the name above every name,  
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.  
**All Amen.**

God the Son,  
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,  
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.  
**All Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,  
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.  
**All Amen.**

And the blessing of God the Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and remain with you always.  
**All Amen.**

**HYMN 4** [What a beautiful name](#) (please 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.

For with the oil of gladness  
you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son,  
to be our great high priest and king of all creation.  
As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross  
and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.  
As king he claims dominion over all your creatures,  
that he may bring before your infinite majesty  
a kingdom of truth and life,  
a kingdom of holiness and grace,  
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.  
And so with angels and archangels  
and all the heavenly host,  
we proclaim your glory and join their unending hymn of praise:

**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 the Holy Innocents 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**

Stir up, O Lord,  
the wills of your faithful people;  
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be  
plenteously rewarded;  
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.