



**Morning Prayer**  
**Christ the King**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020**



# An Order for Morning Prayer on Sunday

22 November 2020

## Christ the King



### Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

### Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'  
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Lord God,**  
**we have sinned against you;**  
**we have done evil in your sight.**  
**We are sorry and repent.**  
**Have mercy on us according to your love.**  
**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**  
**Renew a right spirit within us**

**and restore to us the joy of your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleans us from our sins,  
and restore us in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,  
**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy  
**and in our song will we praise our God.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
creator and redeemer of all;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world.  
and in your great love fashioned us in your image.  
Now, through the deep waters of death,  
you have brought your people to new birth  
by raising your Son to life in triumph.  
May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts  
as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# **† The Word of God**

## **Psalmody**

*Psalm 95.1-7a*

- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving  
and be glad in him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God  
and a great king above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth  
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God;

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now:  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

## **First Reading**

*Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24*

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The reading may be followed by a time of silence.*

## **Old Testament Cantic**

### **A Song of David**

*1 Chronicles 29.10b-13,14b*

- 1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever,  
for yours is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
- 2 Everything in heaven and on earth is yours;  
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,  
and you are exalted as head over all.
- 3 Riches and honour come from you  
and you rule over all.
- 4 In your hand are power and might;  
yours it is to give power and strength to all.

- 5 And now we give you thanks, our God,  
and praise your glorious name.
- 6 For all things come from you,  
and of your own have we given you.

*1 Chronicles 29.10b-13, 14b*

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

## **Second Reading**

*Matthew 25.31-46*

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it

that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The reading may be followed by a time of silence.*

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead

**And Christ shall give you light.**

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.**

Set your minds on things that are above,  
not on things that are on the earth.

**And Christ shall give you light.**

When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,  
and Christ shall give you light.**

**Gospel Cantic**

**Benedictus**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

- 6 Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of  
death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1.68-79*
- Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

**Sermon** (There is a reflection at the end of this booklet)

## **The Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **¶ Prayers**

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;

**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 kingdom come;

**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 dominion come;

**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 rule come;

**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;  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.

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

*The Collect is said.*

Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven  
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

**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.**



## **The Conclusion**

### **The Blessing**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

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## Christ the King

By Archdeacon Robin King

With all the election stuff happening there was an article about the US President's car, 'Described as a rolling fortress, it boasts eight to twelve inch thick armour, has a strengthened base to withstand mines and a petrol tank which cannot explode, along with gun ports, an air filter system and tear-gas cannons. Also on board is an infrared driving system and missile detectors. It can run at 65mph with all its tyres shredded, and there is usually an identical decoy driving in the convoy. Last but not least, the vehicle is stocked with bottles of the president's blood type - and cans of Diet Coke.'

All this kit - so that the leader of the free world can drive safely, sometimes only a few yards, from one engagement to the next.

The little boy in me would love to be the US President's car maker - we used to draw cars like that at school when I was ten, with gadgets, secret compartments and so on. We were way ahead of our time. Imagine the fun these people must have - they're given an unlimited budget and told to make an indestructible car that will cater for every eventuality.

We all fall victim at some point to the amazing advances we have made, Netflix, the iPhone 12, Track and Trace (oh, maybe not that), the wonderful imagination of the entertainers we have today, of the ability we have to protect ourselves from (almost) anything - and we wonder how we could have ever been taken in by the now very ordinary things that so impressed us five or fifty years ago.

Presidents and Prime Ministers might travel around in interesting cars but they cannot immunise themselves from pandemics, the vagaries of the electorate, climate change, or even from the simple need for a drink. Despite their dreaming and their imagination, despite their immense power and wealth, they are still thwarted at

so many turns. The last eight or nine months have shown us that all too painfully.

Then there's the regular trickle of press exclusives to show that people we once might have respected actually have feet of clay. The disciples once marvelled at the magnificence of the Temple stones - until Jesus told them that they would soon be knocked down. There is much in the world that impresses, that demands our attention, our obedience, that promises much - and yet, in the end, something else always comes along to show it up as rather ordinary.

So where does your hope lie? If not in other people, then perhaps in your own strength, in your own cunning and brains? In your own wealth and possessions? Can all these things ever be enough?

Or is your hope in the king who, in humility and love, wore a crown of thorns?

If that's how Jesus, our Lord and King, shows his sovereignty then that too should be our example – not seeking to show power in wealth or strength, but in sacrifice. Most of us actually have quite a lot of power (at home, in church, at work, where and what we choose to spend our money on, when we bump into those in real need). Are we strong and forceful with that power or do we find another way? What would it take to bring peace on earth? What does it take to end an argument at home? You can shout louder, build stronger defences (emotional or physical), you can hope to overwhelm your enemies – but winning like that never brings any real peace.

Could we instead choose to serve the interests of others? Could we choose to lose a few more arguments, knowing that, in the end, God will sort it out?

In all the conflicts Jesus found himself involved in he only really seemed worried about winning one argument, the one between life and death. Jesus, the one who appeared weak and powerless, had and still has, the power to deliver what all other kings and

princes, presidents and prime ministers can't even begin to imagine.

All US Presidents want to reduce the risk of an early death by driving around in their rolling fortress - but that very act is a sign of fear and an admission of failure, that they cannot guarantee peace. Jesus came as a weak and helpless child, no armour-plating, and yet he is truly the Prince of Peace.

Jesus can do this because he has a majesty that never fades or dates. When we see him for who he really is we will no longer be quite so preoccupied with the petty things of this earth that cause so much quarrelling - we will all be looking and longing in the same direction at the glory that will be revealed.

Unlike with some dictators who travel in fear and secrecy, there are no decoys, Jesus is unique, he is the one, the true king - and he alone is worthy of our praise, not just until the next election, but for all eternity