

The Feast of Christ The King

Entrance Hymn: see separate sheet

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lamb who was slain is worthy to receive strength and divinity, wisdom and power and honour: to him be glory and power for ever.

OPENING PRAYER

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.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24

A reading from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel

¹¹ Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ 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. ²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²² I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ 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**

PSALM Psalm 98

Response: *I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'*

1 I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. R.

2 Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact.
It is there that the tribes go up, The tribes of the Lord. R.

3 For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's Name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
Of the house of David R.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Ephesians 1.15-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know

him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25.31-46

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: ³¹ '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. ³² 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, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ 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; ³⁵ 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, ³⁶ 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." ³⁷ 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? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰ 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."

⁴¹ 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; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

⁴³ 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." ⁴⁴ 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?" ⁴⁵ 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." ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

This is the Gospel of Christ: **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Offertory Hymn: see separate sheet

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord we offer the sacrifice by which your Son reconciles mankind. *May it bring unity and peace to the world.* We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Hymns: see separate sheet

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you give us Christ, the King of all creation, as food for everlasting life. Help us to live by his gospel and bring us to the joy of his kingdom, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Final Hymn: see separate sheet

Christ the King

Sunday between 20 and 26 November inclusive

YEAR A

Blessed are you, Lord our King and our God,
for you have made us and we belong to you.

You have revealed your love for us
in the coming of Christ our Lord
and in the sending of the Holy Spirit.
Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Loving Lord, we ask your blessing
upon all who seek to care for your people.
We pray for all bishops, priests and deacons,
all who preach the word, administer the sacraments
and show pastoral care.

May we all share in your outreach and mission of love.
We remember especially those who are reaching out
to the confused and the lost.

Silence

King of Love,
Good Shepherd, hear us.

Loving Lord, we ask your blessing
upon this world, which is your creation.
We remember today all who are struggling
against evil, war or poverty.
We pray for all who share in your redeeming work
through their caring for others
and seeking to bring them freedom.

We pray for all relief agencies
and all who reach out to those in need.

Silence

King of Love,
Good Shepherd, hear us.

Loving Lord, we ask your blessing
upon our homes and our loved ones.

We remember today all who live alone
and those who are homeless.

We pray especially for young people
living on the streets of our towns and cities
and all whose lives were diminished
by circumstances they could not avoid.

Silence

King of Love,
Good Shepherd, hear us.

Loving Lord, we ask your blessing
upon all who are ill at home or in hospital.

We remember also loved ones
who are caring for them
and are anxious and fearful.

We pray for all who cannot cope on their own.
We ask your blessing upon all carers
and those involved in medical care
and the rescue services.

Silence

King of Love,
Good Shepherd, hear us.

Loving Lord, we ask your blessing
upon our friends and loved ones
who have departed from us.
May they share with your saints in glory.

To you and your loving presence
we commit this world and ourselves
and ask that we may know you
as the King of Love, our Saviour and our Friend.

Silence

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