

# Our Sunday Service Together

## Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> 2022



### An Acclamation for the Season

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

### Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body  
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to 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.

### Our Confession

*God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.*

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.  
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

*Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ*

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

## The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.  
*Silence is kept.*

All: 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 Psalmody Psalm 46 *We say the psalm aloud*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble;  
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;  
Though the waters rage and swell, and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of her; therefore, shall she not be removed; God shall help her at the break of day.  
The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken, but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.  
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.  
Come and behold the works of the Lord, what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.  
He makes wars to cease in all the world; he shatters the bow and snaps the spear and burns the chariots in the fire.  
'Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.'  
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

## Scripture Reading Colossians 1.11-20

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 <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.  
<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> 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.

*At the end of the reading we say:*

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## The Gospel

Luke 23.33-43

<sup>33</sup>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. <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup>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!' <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup>and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?' <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' <sup>42</sup>Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' <sup>43</sup>He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

*At the end of the reading we say:*

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

## A Reflection for the day

Today is feast of Christ the King. But what sort of a king is Jesus? Both the gospel and Paul, in his letter to the Colossians would ask the same.

In Luke's gospel the soldiers mock Jesus because the sign says 'king of the Jews'; well no king, no one wealthy for that matter was ever crucified. And more, one of the prisoners mocks him and questions his kingship, 'if you were a king, then command your forces to come rescue you'. we are left with a question, 'how then is Jesus a king?'

Paul, in his epistle, presents us with an eternal conundrum, an oxymoron in fact, 'how can it be that the God of Creation, utterly holy, would come to us living and dying in the embodied image of God?' How, can it be that this Jesus could be seen as Lord by anyone, or king for that matter?

But here is the mystery of our faith, that humility, grace and love abound in our God! So much so, that God had to come in that love for the world and become completely involved – living and dying with us. And more, by dying with us he died for us and so redeemed the world.

We heard much this year about our late queen's attitude to being the monarch. Rather than command obedience and honour she sought in humility to serve the nation in all ways she could. And we heard also how she got this idea for being queen from her faith in Christ; from her role model for monarchy – Jesus the Christ! Jesus could have commanded armies come rescue him, he could have avoided crucifixion if he had spoken up at his trial, but what service would that have brought to humanity?

As Paul reminds us, in Jesus 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.

This then is our God, this is Jesus, the servant King, who came in the fullness of humanity and in Godhead, in humility, vulnerability, in grace and love. He calls us to follow him, just as the queen did, by serving others, in offering our everything for the goodness of all who are called our neighbours.

I wonder, will she take her inspiration to heart and follow the one true king of all creation.

## The Creed

All: 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 *We make our intercessions*

Let us with confidence present our prayers and supplications to the throne of grace.

We pray for the church, the body of Christ throughout all the world. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom.

*Come to your world as King of the nations.* Enable our Leaders to stay on the course you have set for them. Be their wisdom and good counsel. Help them to distil the voices. Shine the light of your presence upon our Prime Minister, our Government and all who advise them.

*Lord in your mercy hear our prayers.*

*Come to your world as King of the nations.* We bring to God all those who suffer in body, mind, spirit or with grief. We ask that in God's great loving kindness they might know God's sustaining presence amidst their pain. We pray for those who are stretched beyond their own capacity to cope and remain hopeful – that in the roar of these waterfalls God would bring a sense of coherence, comfort and strength.

*Lord in your mercy hear our prayers.*

*Come to your world as King of the nations.* At this time, we pray for the isolated and the lonely, for those suffering at home from domestic abuse and especially those admitted to hospital because of abuse. We give thanks for all seeking to minister to the least of these', for those working in the NHS, for social workers, for food bank helpers, night shelter workers, those who support people forced into the sex industry to make ends meet, for children who miss school to care for others.

*Lord in your mercy hear our prayers*

*Come to your world as King of the nations.* Lift us up to meet you, that with all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

*Lord in your mercy hear our prayers; Amen!*

## The Collect

All: 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.

*Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us*

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.

## The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.  
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.  
Christ under me, Christ over me;  
Christ beside me on my left and my right.  
This day be within and without me.  
Amen.