

The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway Stavanger Congregation

Stavanger Anglicans' website:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/8466/>

Stavanger Anglicans on Facebook:

<https://m.facebook.com/stavangeranglicans/>

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*Sunday 23 November 2025;
Christ the King/Harvest Thanksgiving
Menighetshus: 10.30*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 23.1-6

Psalms 46

Colossians 1.11-20

Luke 23.33-43



Reflection

Christ the King Sunday always surprises us. We expect glory, crowns, and triumph, but the Gospel takes us to a hill outside Jerusalem, where Jesus hangs on a cross between two criminals. This is not a king as the world imagines a king. There is no throne of gold, only wood. No royal robe, only wounds. No words of judgment, only forgiveness.



Yet this is the King we proclaim. In Luke's Gospel, people mock Jesus: "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" But Jesus reveals the kind of king He truly is: not a king who saves Himself, but a king who saves others.

His power is not domination, but mercy.

His crown is compassion.

His kingdom begins with a simple promise to a dying thief:

"Today you will be with me in paradise."

Today, we still need this kind of king.
Not a ruler of force, but a ruler of hope.
A king who meets us not in our strength, but in our need.
In a society that moves fast, values achievement, and often hides its wounds, Christ the King shows us that God meets us exactly where life hurts most, and calls us into a kingdom shaped by grace.

Norway is blessed with stability, freedom, and beauty. Yet many struggle, with loneliness, mental health, uncertainty about the future, or feeling they never quite “measure up.” And our public debates can become harsh and cold.



Christ the King speaks into this moment.
He reminds us that God’s reign looks like welcome for the outsider, dignity for the weak, forgiveness for the guilty, and hope for those who think hope has run out.

To the anxious, He says: “I am with you.”

To the exhausted: “My grace is enough.”

To the stranger and the refugee: “You belong.”

To all creation: “I make all things new.”



Today we also give thanks for the harvest,
for the gifts of the land,
the farmers who labour,
the sea that feeds us,
the seasons that sustain us.

Harvest teaches us two truths about God's kingdom:



First, God provides.

Every berry on the mountainside, every loaf of bread, every breath is a gift of grace. We live not by our own strength alone, but by God's faithful generosity.



Second, God invites us to share.

A good harvest is never kept to oneself.
It overflows, just as God's mercy overflows.
The kingdom of Christ is a kingdom where blessings are not hoarded but given away.



On Christ the King Sunday, we see that the cross is the strange and beautiful moment when God sows love into the soil of human suffering.

At Calvary, the seed dies, and from it grows forgiveness, reconciliation, and eternal life.

The criminal beside Jesus saw it first.

He had nothing to offer, no harvest of good deeds.

Yet Jesus opened the gates of paradise to him.

This is the final word for us, too:

God's mercy is greater than our failures.

God's kingdom is open even to those who come at the last hour.

So what does it mean to follow Christ the King today?

It means choosing mercy over mockery.

Gratitude over anxiety.

Generosity over fear.

It means living as a people who trust that God's kingdom is already breaking in, in small acts of kindness, in shared meals, in forgiveness offered, in care for creation, in welcoming the stranger. Christ reigns from the cross so that love, not power, has the final say.

May our lives reflect the King who welcomes the lost, feeds the hungry, blesses the land, and gathers all people into His harvest grace.

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

Contacts and Connections

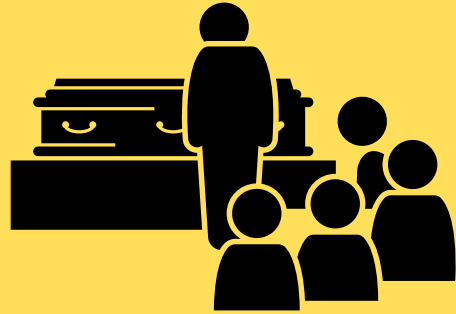


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For pastoral needs,
Baptisms
Blessing of Civil
Marriages
Funerals
Please contact the
Assistant Chaplain



Collect

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.



Notices

Collection
offering via
v:pps

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Stavanger Anglicans

We are back at Menighetshus and we pay rentals.

Our finances are not looking good may you please help us by donating through VIPPS or Bank Account Number 3201 08 90631

Christmas Carols



The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will take place on 23 December 2025 at Stavanger Cathedral. We would be grateful for recommendations of local beneficiaries, particularly organizations supporting children, to receive the proceeds from this service.



Tea/Coffee

After our Holy Communion service, everyone is warmly invited to stay behind for tea/coffee and fellowship. This is a lovely opportunity to share time together and strengthen our life as a church family

