FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING 2026 (HT)

We sing: At the name of Jesus (ONE-48)

We kneel or sit to confess our sins.

Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

The president declares absolution.

Receiving forgiveness, we sing:

Glory in the highest
to the God of heaven!
Peace to all your people
through the earth be given!
Mighty God and Father,
thanks and praise we bring,
singing alleluias to our heavenly King.

Jesus Christ is risen,
God the Father's Son;
With the Holy Spirit
you are Lord alone!
Lamb once killed for sinners,
all our guilt to bear,
show us now your mercy,
now receive our prayer.

Christ the world's true Saviour,
high and holy One,
seated now and reigning
from your Father's throne:
Lord and God, we praise you!
Highest heaven adores:
in the Father's glory,
all the praise be yours!

Words: Christopher M Idle b.1938

We pray silently before the collect.

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel:

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 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. 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. 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 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.
Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

(Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24, NRSVue)

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

Verses from Psalm 95:

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

(Psalm 90: 1-7)

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.

We sing: Help us to help each other, Lord (ONE-259)

We stand as we are able.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew*.

(Matthew 25: 31-end)

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: '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. 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, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the kind 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; 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, 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." 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? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer then, "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." 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; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you have me nothing to drink, 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." 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?" 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." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit to listen to the sermon.

We declare the faith of the Church.

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,

begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

We kneel or sit for the intercessions.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

The president introduces the Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.**

A collection is taken as we sing: From heaven you came, helpless Babe (ONE-175)

Eucharistic Prayer A:

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.
The president praises God for his mighty acts and we respond

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 recall the Last Supper.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.

We kneel or sit.

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 president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

The choir sing, then we repeat:

O Lamb of God who takes away
the world's sins, this we doubly pray.
Have mercy on us here today.
Have mercy on us for always.
O Lamb of God,
take and release the world's sins
and grant us your peace.

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The president invites us to Communion.
God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy; Jesus Christ is Lord; to the glory of God the Father.

We respond to the authorized words of distribution, saying **Amen.**

If you regularly receive Communion in another Christian church (or have ever been confirmed or formally prepared for Holy Communion), we invite you to Communion. If this is not the case for you, you are welcome forward for a blessing (carry this leaflet to signal this) or if you prefer, simply remain in your place.

Our communion wafers meet the requirements both of Coeliac UK and the Church of England. If you do not wish to drink from the cup but want to acknowledge the sacramental presence, you may choose to touch the chalice base, or take it into your hands for a moment, before saying "Amen".

Those at home are invited to pray a prayer of Spiritual Communion:
O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world
and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist,
hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son,
I offer you praise and thanksgiving.
Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life
I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised, and with your Son who gave his life for us.
Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me
and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

The Post Communion prayer is said.

We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste
of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples. Amen.

Notices are given.

We sing hymn Let all the world in every corner sing (ONE-376)

We receive God's blessing and are sent back to our daily lives:
Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ, Amen.

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