St Martin's Church, Scamblesby

United Parish of the Asterby Group



Morning Praise

Sunday next before Advent

Festival of Christ the King

Scripture & Notices for Sunday 22nd November 2026

PLEASE TAKE THIS NOTICE SHEET WITH YOU

Service leaders: Derek Elmhirst, Ann South

Churchwardens: Derek Elmhirst, Peter Myers

Music: Kathy Brayshaw

Next Sunday, 29th November

Morning Praise, St Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain, 10am

Taizé service, St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain, 6pm

The Word

Psalm 95.1-7
(from the Common Worship Psalter)

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;
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Readings

Old Testament – **Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24** (NRSV)

11 For 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.

New Testament – **Ephesians 1.15-23** (NRSV)

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.

The Gospel

Matthew 25.31-46 (NRSV)

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.'



22nd November – The excitement of the Sunday of Christ the King

The last Sunday in November is the last Sunday of the church year, and in some ways the most important. Why? Because everything else in the Christian year looks BACK on what happened 2000 years ago. The Sunday of Christ the King looks FORWARD to what we can expect next…. the return one day of Jesus Christ to this earth, as King of Kings.

Does the idea of Jesus of Nazareth literally returning to earth seem a bit quaint to accept, in our computerised world of e-mails and the internet? Well, that is what the Bible says will happen – it is promised more than 250 times!

The Bible is quite clear: the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings will take place personally, powerfully, bodily, visibly, publicly –

and INSTANTLY. (Read Matthew 24:30,31, or I Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:3.) Here are words of Jesus Himself:

For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other. (Luke 17:24)

This will be no local story for a BBC TV reporter to cover if he gets time. That day he won't be interviewing the Carpenter of Nazareth, wearing Galilean homespun. Jesus will be in His incandescent brilliance as the 'Son of Man' – a bit of a challenge even for TV reporters! Certainly when Peter, James and John were witness to their familiar Master 'transfigured', as the same irradiated Person – in a dramatic preview of Christ's triumphant final rule (Luke 9:28-36), they did not feel very confident.

The martyred Stephen, about to die, had a similar glimpse: "Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7:56). The exiled apostle John on the island of Patmos saw the same figure: '…His face was like the sun shining in full strength' (Revelation 1:16.)

When Christ one day returns, the whole world will finally witness this same spectacle (Revelation 1:7). His return will mark the end of history, as we know it. It will inaugurate the final Judgment. It will re-unite the Lord with His Church on earth.

Jesus' return to us will bring about the new heaven and the new earth. Pain, death, persecution, privation and sorrow will all be banished. The entire edifice of evil that has raised itself against the rule of God will be dismantled in a moment.

We have been warned all along not to place a date or a time upon the Second Coming of Christ. (Matthew 24:42-44) Sadly, many people ignore this warning and waste endless time in calculations. The way in which we should be spending our days before the end is to work,

watch and witness to our Lord Jesus – whether or not ours is a world of computers, e-mail and all the rest!

In the meantime, where is Jesus now? The Bible writers tells us that Jesus has returned to the place of privilege and power, and is 'seated at the right hand' of the Father (Ephesians 1:20-21; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3), and is waiting for the Father's timing for Him to return to earth in glory (Mark 13:26-27,32), to raise the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), and give them their resurrection bodies (1 Corinthians 15:35-44).

Jesus will never be a baby again. He is now Christ the King – today, tomorrow, forever.

Between Sundays…. Advent sessions

We will be running a series of four sessions this Advent based on the theme of *Generous God, Generous Giving*, which ties in nicely with the Church of England theme of *the Gift of Christmas* this year. Previous participants have found these sessions great for focusing on the *real* Christmas, and an antidote to the commercial frenzy we get led into.

The sessions, all in December, will be on Wed. 2nd, Wed. 9th, Tues. 15th, Tues. 22nd, venue tbc but within the parish boundary.

If you would like to join these sessions, please contact Ann South, Authorised Lay Minister, on 01507 313792, or any member of the Ministry Team.



Notices

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

Sunday 29th November – Morning Praise – 10am
St Andrew's Church, Donington on Bain

Sunday 29th November – Taizé service – 6pm
St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain

Sunday 6th December – details to be confirmed

Tues. 8th December – Carols by Candlelight – 7pm
All Saint's Church, Goulceby

Thurs. 10th December – Carol service
with the Banovallum Brass Band – 6pm
St Julian's Church, Benniworth

Sunday 13th December – Holy Communion – 10am
St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain

Sunday 13th December – Carol service – 3pm
St Peter's Church, Gayton-le-Wold

Wed. 16th December – Carol service – 7pm
St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain

The Parish **Prayer Circle** exists to meet some of the prayer needs of the community. You can make a request for prayer (confidential within the Prayer Circle) by contacting Ann South on 01507 313792)

Asterby Group website: www.asterbygroup.org
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