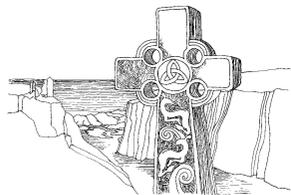


# 'CHRIST THE KING'

THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT



The Church Year ends today, with the celebration of 'Christ the King'. The Collect expresses the hope that God, having crowned his Son on Ascension Day as the 'ruler over all things', will one day 'bring the whole created order to worship at his feet'. Next Sunday (Advent) we begin a new Church Year, praying for that day when he will come again and be acclaimed as King.

## The Gathering

### THE GREETING

The grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*(A HYMN may be sung)*

Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty!

**Just and true are your ways, King of the nations!**

Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name?

**For you alone are holy.**

All nations will come and worship before you,

**for your judgements have been revealed.**

*(Rev. 15:3-4)*

### PRAYER

God our Father, we give thanks that you raised your Son from death to life, and exalted him to your throne in glory. Send the Holy Spirit

that we may worship him as our Lord, and serve him as our King, for Jesus Christ's sake.

**Amen.**

*(SONGS may be sung)*

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### PENITENCE

As we anticipate the rule of Christ over all things, we recognize the evil which still disfigures God's world, and accept our shared human responsibility for it ...

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess:

The widening gap between the comfortably-off and the desperately poor ...

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The deep divisions between nations, races and religions ...

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

The weakening of family life and the decay of communities ...

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The damage inflicted upon the earth through insatiable consumer greed ...

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

The loss of faith, and erosion of Christian values ...

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(The GLORIA, the VENITE, a SONG or RESPONSES may be used)*

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... *(silent prayer)*

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. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE SCRIPTURE READING(S)

*(After the reading)*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM/HYMN or SCRIPTURAL SONG

### THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(After the reading)*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### THE SERMON

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

*Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself, and was obedient  
to death – even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every  
name: that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father*

*(Phil. 2:6-11)*

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*(A HYMN may be sung)*

## The Prayers

### INTERCESSIONS

*(Special thanksgivings and prayers ...)*

Father in heaven, we give thanks that your Son was raised from the humiliation of the cross to the glory of heaven. We offer our prayers through him who, as our great High Priest, ever intercedes for us.

We pray for all who serve his Church as bishops (N.) priests, deacons and lay ministers ... Give them grace to nourish your people through spiritual worship, sound teaching and pastoral care.

Your Kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

We pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in other places who are persecuted, hated or deprived ... Sustain their faith, and strengthen our fellowship with them through prayer and practical support.

Your Kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

We pray for each other as we seek to be witnesses of Christ in our everyday lives and work ... Lead us by the Holy Spirit in the ways of Christ, that we may learn to speak and do as he would.

Your Kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

We pray for our Queen and government, and for the leaders of the nations, as they try to resolve the difficult issues confronting them ... Make them know they are accountable to God and guide them into policies that promote justice, reconciliation and opportunity for all.

Your Kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

We pray for those who face distressing illness, increasing frailty or painful treatment ... Bring healing through the care they receive from doctors and nurses, relatives and friends.

Your Kingdom come. **Your will be done.**

We remember those who have died ... Father raise us, with all who have died in faith, to eternal life in Christ. **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*(A HYMN may be sung)*

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

**Jesus, Saviour and King, we have  
honoured you with our lips, help us also  
to offer you our lives that through us your  
light may shine. Amen.**

*(THE BLESSING or THE GRACE is said)*