

The Benefice of Chew Valley East

Morning Prayer for Sunday 23 November 2025, Christ the King

*If you wish to join in the service, then the words in bold are to be said together.
Please join in with the Psalms and Canticles by reciting each one in its entirety.*

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Your faithful servants bless you.
They make known the glory of your kingdom.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
ruler and judge of all,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
In the darkness of this age that is passing away
may the light of your presence which the saints enjoy
surround our steps as we journey on.
May we reflect your glory this day
and so be made ready to see your face
in the heavenly city where night shall be no more.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

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 Word of God

Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, ♦
a very present help in trouble;

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, ♦
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;

³Though the waters rage and swell, ♦
and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, ♦
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of her; therefore shall she not be removed; ♦
God shall help her at the break of day.

⁶The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken, ♦
but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.

⁷The Lord of hosts is with us; ♦
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸Come and behold the works of the Lord, ♦
what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.

⁹He makes wars to cease in all the world; ♦
he shatters the bow and snaps the spear and burns the chariots in the fire.

¹⁰‘Be still, and know that I am God; ♦
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.’

¹¹The 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 shall be for ever. Amen.**

First Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

Brothers and sisters: ¹¹May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, ¹²while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for 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. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He 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. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and 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.

Canticle

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;
you are exalted as head over all.**

¹Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever, ♦
for yours is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.

²Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; ♦
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head over all.

³Riches and honour come from you ♦
and you rule over all.

⁴In your hand are power and might; ♦
yours it is to give power and strength to all.

⁵And now we give you thanks, our God, ♦
and praise your glorious name.

⁶For all things come from you, ♦
and of your own have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29.10b-13, 14b

**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.**

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;
you are exalted as head over all.**

Second Reading: Luke 23:33-43

³³When 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. ³⁴Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And 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!' ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?' ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴²Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³Jesus replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Responsory

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord,
my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.

The heavens bear witness to your wonders;

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

The assembly of your saints proclaims your truth;

my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

**I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord,
my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.**

from Psalm 89

Gospel Canticle: Benedictus

**God raised Christ from the dead,
and enthroned him at his right hand in heaven.**

¹Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.

²He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.

³Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

⁴To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

⁵This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

⁶Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

⁷And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

⁸To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

⁹In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

¹⁰To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**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.**

**God raised Christ from the dead,
and enthroned him at his right hand in heaven.**

Intercessions

To the words: May your reign/kingdom/rule, etc., come;
Please respond: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

We pray for all those in positions of power,
that they may govern with wisdom and integrity,
serving the needs of their people.

May your reign come; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church, the sign of your reign,
that it may extend your welcome to people of every
race and background.

May your kingdom come; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Christians of every denomination,
that together we may come to understand
the royal priesthood you bestowed on us in baptism.

May your dominion come. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose commitment to truth
brings them into conflict with earthly powers,
that they may have the courage to endure.

May your rule come; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community of faith,
that attentive to your word
we may always worship in spirit and in truth.

May your reign come; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Loving God,
you have taught us that the power of the heart
is greater than the power of wealth and might.
Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign.

**We ask this through Jesus Christ our King;
to him be glory and power for ever. Amen.**

Collect

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.**

Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Conclusion

May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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