The Benefice of Chew Valley East: chewvalleyeastchurches.com

Morning Prayer for Sunday 22 November 2026, 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.

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 95:1-7a

[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;

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: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

[11]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.

Canticle

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

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

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

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

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

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

[6]For 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: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: [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.'

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[10]To 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 … 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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