



**26th November 2023**

## **Christ the King**

### **¶ Welcome and Introduction**

#### **♪ Hymn (227) ♪**

Crown Him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon His throne;  
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own!

Awake, my soul, and sing  
of Him who died for thee,  
and hail Him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those He came to save.

His glories now we sing,  
who died, and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of love;  
behold His hands and side,  
those wounds yet visible above,  
in beauty glorified:  
no angel in the sky  
can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bends his burning eye  
at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of years,  
the Potentate of time,

Creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime:  
all hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for Thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.

*Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)*

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you

**and also with you.**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets  
are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our  
hearts  
by the inspiration of your  
Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your  
holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### **The Confession and Absolution**

#### **Invitation to confession**

Christ calls us to share the heavenly  
banquet of his love with all the saints in  
earth and heaven.

Knowing our unworthiness and sin,  
let us ask from him both mercy and  
forgiveness.

The kingdom is yours,  
but we turn away from your just rule:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

The power is yours,  
but we trust in our own power and  
strength:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

The glory is yours,  
but we fall short of the glory of God:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your  
sins, confirm and strengthen you in  
all goodness, and keep you in life  
eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on  
earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the  
world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand  
of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## **The Collect**

*A period of 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;  
for he reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, one glory.

**Amen.**

## **¶ The Liturgy of the Word**

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word  
of God as it comes to us in the reading  
of Holy Scripture.

**Our hearts and minds are open.**

## **First Reading**

*Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24*

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will  
search for my sheep, and will seek them  
out. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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 water-courses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. <sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ♪ Hymn (704) ♪

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,  
"My God and King!"

The heav'ns are not too high,  
his praise may thither fly;  
the earth is not too low,  
his praises there may grow.

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,  
"My God and King!"

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,  
"My God and King!"

The church with psalms must shout:  
no door can keep them out.

But, more than all, the heart  
must bear the longest part.

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,  
"My God and King!"

*George Herbert (1593 - 1633)*

*Please be seated. The children leave for  
Young Church.*

## Second Reading

*Ephesians 1.15-23*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>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, <sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

<sup>20</sup>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, <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

You, Christ, are the King of glory,  
the eternal Son of the Father.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Matthew 25.31-46*

Jesus said to his disciples: <sup>31</sup>‘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. <sup>32</sup>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, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

<sup>34</sup>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; <sup>35</sup>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, <sup>36</sup>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.’ <sup>37</sup>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? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>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.’ <sup>41</sup>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; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>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.’ <sup>44</sup>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?’ <sup>45</sup>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.’ <sup>46</sup>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.**

## **The Sermon**

## **The Nicene Creed**

**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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.**

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

To crown all things there must be love, to bind all together and complete the whole. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

*cf Colossians 3.14*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

### ♪ Hymn (700) ♪

King of kings, Majesty  
God of Heaven living in me  
Gentle Saviour, closest friend  
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end  
All within me falls at Your throne

Your Majesty, I can but bow  
*I lay my all before You now  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve Your Majesty*

Earth and Heaven worship You  
Love eternal, Faithful and True

Who bought the nations, ransomed souls

Brought this sinner near to Your throne  
All within me cries out in praise.

*Jarrold Cooper (1996)*

Blessed be God,  
who enthrones us with Christ in the heavenly realms.

May we feed upon the bread of God and drink the royal wine of heaven.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer (E)

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with the oil of gladness you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son, to be our great high priest and king of all creation.

As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.

As king he claims dominion over all your creatures, that he may bring before your infinite majesty a kingdom of truth and life,

a kingdom of holiness and grace,  
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

And so with angels and archangels  
and all the heavenly host,  
we proclaim your glory and join in their  
unending hymn of praise:

**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 praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of  
your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had  
supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them  
and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is  
given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took  
the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them  
and said:

Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for  
the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in  
remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus  
did, in him we plead with confidence his

sacrifice made once for all  
upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life  
and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:  
**Lord, by your cross and  
resurrection you have set us  
free.**

**You are the Saviour of the  
world.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all  
the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with St Matthew and all  
the saints to feast  
at your table in heaven.

**Through Christ, and with  
Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
O loving Father,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*As the children return from Young Church,  
we sing*

♪ **Chant (CAHON 937)** ♪

Nothing can trouble, nothing can  
frighten,  
Those who seek God shall never go  
wanting.

Nothing can trouble, nothing can  
frighten,  
God alone fills us.

*Taizé Community © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Uniting our prayers with the whole  
company of heaven,  
let us pray with confidence as our  
Saviour has taught us

**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.**

## **Breaking of the 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.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
give us your peace.**

## **Giving of 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.**

**Anthem** - Jesu joy of man's  
desiring (?)

## **♪ Hymn (448) ♪**

I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us  
share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known:  
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound,  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one.

*Brian Wren (b.1936) © 1971, 1995, Stainer & Bell  
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## **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

Stir up, O Lord,  
the wills of your faithful people;  
that they, plenteously bringing forth the  
fruit of good works,  
may by you be plenteously rewarded;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



**Father of all,  
 we give you thanks and praise,  
 that when we were still far off  
 you met us in your Son and  
 brought us home.  
 Dying and living,  
 he declared your love,  
 gave us grace, and opened the  
 gate of glory.  
 May we who share Christ's  
 body live his risen life;  
 we who drink his cup bring  
 life to others;  
 we whom the Spirit lights give  
 light to the world.  
 Keep us firm in the hope you  
 have set before us,  
 so we and all your children  
 shall be free,  
 and the whole earth live to  
 praise your name;  
 through Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.**

### 🎵 **Hymn (612)** 🎵

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
 Saviour, Master, King!  
 Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
 hear us as we sing:  
*Yours the glory and the crown,  
 the high renown, the eternal name.*  
 Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
 Son of Man on earth!  
 Power and majesty concealing  
 by Your humble birth:  
 Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
 victim crucified!  
 Death is through the cross defeated,  
 sinners justified:

Priestly King, enthroned for ever  
 high in heaven above!  
 Sin and death and hell shall never  
 stifle hymns of love:

So, our hearts and voices raising  
 through the ages long,  
 ceaselessly upon You gazing,  
 this shall be our song:

*Michael Saward (1932-2015) © Michael Saward/  
 Jubilate Hymns*

## ¶ **Dismissal**

### **The Blessing**

God the Father,  
 who has given to his Son the name  
 above every name,  
 strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus  
 as Lord.

**Amen.**

God the Son,  
 who is our great high priest passed into  
 the heavens, plead for you at the right  
 hand of the Father.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
 who pours out his abundant gifts upon  
 the Church, make you faithful servants  
 of Christ our King.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
 be upon you and remain with you and  
 all those whom you love and all those  
 for whom you pray this day and for  
 evermore.

**Amen.**

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
 be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
**and the King of glory shall  
 come in.**

‘Who is the King of glory?’

**‘The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord who is mighty in  
battle.’**

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;  
**and the King of glory shall  
come in.**

‘Who is this King of glory?’

**‘The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.’**

May we remain in the peace of Christ  
our King.

**Thanks be to God.**

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