

Service for Week 17th – 23rd Nov. 2025

Christ the King. Sunday before Advent

By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Sovereign God, we worship you. Open our eyes to your presence, our hearts to your love, and our minds to your will. Shape our lives so that we may live and work for you, to the glory of your name.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive them who trespass
against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.

Amen

Bible Reading from Paul's letter to the early church Colossians 1:3 &11-20

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you. **v11.**being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Second Bible Reading Psalm 95:3-5

For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Holy words, Holy wisdom,
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

In his letter to the early church in Colossus Paul writes about what God achieved through the coming of Christ to our world. He writes that Jesus,



through his life and his teachings brought us true knowledge of God. He brought us out of darkness into the knowledge that God loves every one of us and forgives us for our sin. Paul describes this knowledge and new way of living, brought about through Jesus Christ as being in the 'kingdom of the Son.'

This week on Sunday it is the Sunday before Advent, which is commonly referred to as the Feast of Christ the King or 'Christ the King' Sunday. The festival is mainly observed by the Roman Catholic church, but also by Anglican, Methodist and other Protestant churches.

These days we have somewhat lost our understanding of what 'kingship' means, kings today such as our King Charles 111 are now figureheads for the country and the government and do not have much influence on our day to day lives. However, when the gospels were written and even in more recent history, kings were all powerful, on their say- so a person could live or be put to death. They administered justice and the welfare of their subjects depended on them.

We use the terms King, Kingdom and Heavenly Kingdom in church today to convey the absolute power that the teachings of Jesus Christ through God has in our lives, and the love and justice that he brings to our world. We

also talk about our faith and spreading the message of Jesus- his example and his teachings, as furthering God's kingdom. The 'Christ the King' Roman Catholic Church near me has as their mission statement – 'God our Father, you call us together to make our Parish a sign of the heavenly kingdom.'

The question is – are you making God through Jesus the King in your life? In other words, is being part of the kingdom of God the most important thing to you, or are other emotional ties or material things more important?

We are now approaching the time of Advent and Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and how three Persian priests (Magi) travelled many miles to worship him. The festival of 'Christ the King' reminds us today that God has dominion over our lives and all creation and it is a time not only for celebration but also for worship. **Amen**

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, I talk about belonging to you and offering my service, but so often reality falls short of the ideal. Instead of making you a part of my life, I treat you as an optional extra. Instead of working for your kingdom, I strive to serve my own interests. Forgive me Lord, teach me how to belong to you, to serve you and how to best serve those around me.

Amen.

Prayers inspired by 'Prayerfully Yours' by Nick Fawcett.