

Service of the Word for Christ the King /Proper 29

Introduction

Grace and peace to you from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Welcome

Opening Responses

Christ the King,
You became poor that many might become rich;
**You emptied yourself of all power
That we might be empowered to choose.**
You show us God's kingdom in our midst
And invite us to kneel with you,
**To humble ourselves, to serve those in need,
To find you here with us now.**
As we gather in your name, fill us with your Spirit;
Open our hearts to worship you,
Jesus the Servant King. **Amen.**

Chris Thorpe: Dancers and Wayfarers.

Hymn 433 O Worship the King

O WORSHIP the King
All glorious above;
O gratefully sing
His power and his love:
Our Shield and Defender,
The Ancient of days,
Pavilioned in splendour,
And girded with praise.

O tell of his might,
O sing of his grace,
Whose robe is the light,
Whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath
The deep thunder-clouds form,
And dark is his path
On the wings of the storm.

This earth, with its store
Of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power
Hath founded of old:
Hath stablished it fast
By a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast,
Like a mantle, the sea.

O measureless Might,
Ineffable Love,
While angels delight
To hymn thee above,
Thy humbler creation,
Though feeble their lays,
With true adoration
Shall sing to thy praise.

Tune: Hanover; Words: Robert Grant

Confession & Absolution

We recognise the many competing kings and kingdoms that claim our allegiance
We turn from them and turn to you.

When we follow the strongest and the fittest, forgetting your gift of co-operation
and mutual flourishing:
Show us your grace and compassion

When we believe that the consumer is king, that we can have more and more for
less and less, reducing wages, damaging the environment, polluting the earth.
When we forget human worth and that we are stewards of creation:
Remind us that your mercy is over all of your creation

When we watch as the powerful dominate the vulnerable;
When we forget that you knelt to wash your disciples' feet:
Remind us of our own power and give us the will to serve

Christ the King, Jesus the Servant King,
You came to cast down the mighty from their thrones
And to raise up the humble and poor.
And you love us with a perfect love.
You invite us to turn and follow you.
Give us grace to learn from those we have hurt;
Give us time for the amendment of life;
Give us the courage to change;
As we choose you to be our King.

Adapted from: Chris Thorpe: Dancers and Wayfarers.

Anthem Gloria from *Vierne: Missa Solemne*

Collect

Almighty and Everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King: grant that the peoples of the earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his gentle and loving rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Reading Ezekiel 34:11-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. 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. 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. 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. 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.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95: 1-7

Come, let us worship and bow down.

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
Let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
And be glad in him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God
And a great king above all gods.

Come, let us worship and bow down.

In his hand are the depths of the earth
And the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
And his hands have moulded the dry land.

Come let us worship and bow down
And kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God;
We are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Come, let us worship and bow down.

Reading Ephesians 1:11-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 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, 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 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, 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 499 Thy Kingdom come O God

Thy kingdom come, O God,
Thy rule, O Christ, begin;
Break with thy iron rod
The tyrannies of sin.

Where is thy reign of peace
And purity and love?
When shall all hatred cease,
As in the realms above?

When comes the promised time
That war shall be no more,
And lust, oppression, crime,
Shall flee thy face before?

We pray thee Lord, arise,
And come in thy great might;
Revive our longing eyes,
Which languish for thy sight.

O'er lands both near and far
Thick darkness broodeth yet:
Arise, O morning Star,
Arise, and never set.

Tune: St Cecilia; Words: Lewis Hensley

Gospel **Matthew 25:31-46**

When it is announced: **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Jesus said to his disciples: "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. 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, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 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; 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, 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.' 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? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 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.' 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; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 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.' 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?' 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.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

At the end: Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon The Chaplain

Anthem

Affirmation of faith

Let us affirm our faith in our Servant King.

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. Amen.**

Philippians 2.6-11

Intercessions

*Prayer is offered for the world and all its people,
particularly for those who suffer and those in need,
and for the Church and its calling.*

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say:

**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 those 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**

Closing Prayer

Destitute King,
One with the hungry, the naked and the scorned:
May our faith be proved not in dogma and piety
But in serving you in the last and the least;
Through Jesus Christ, the stranger's Lord. **Amen**

Steven Shakespeare: Prayers for an Inclusive Church

Hymn 443 Rejoice, the Lord is King

REJOICE, the Lord is King,
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above:

His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:

He sits at God's right hand
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet:

Tune: Gopsal; Words: Charles Wesley

Blessing & Dismissal

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Voluntary