

Morning Prayer
Sunday 22nd November – Christ the King

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love;

according to your judgement give us life.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord;

peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven. Amen.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence may be 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

Old Testament Reading – Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24

¹¹Thus says the LORD God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As 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. ¹³I 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. ¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the LORD God. ¹⁶I 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...

²⁰Therefore, thus says the LORD God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

²⁴And 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.

New Testament Reading – Matthew 25.31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: ³¹When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

³⁴Then 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;

³⁵for 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, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

³⁷Then 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? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”

⁴⁰And 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.”

⁴¹Then 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; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I 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.”

⁴⁴Then 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?”

⁴⁵Then 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.”

⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust.

You are the God of my salvation,

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

In you I hope all the day long.

O my God, in you I trust.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,

for they are from everlasting.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust.

from Psalm 25

from the Te Deum

- 1 You are the King of glory, O Christ.
You are the everlasting Son of the Father.
- 2 When you took it upon yourself to deliver us,
you did not abhor the virgin’s womb.
- 3 When you had overcome the sharpness of death,
you opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
- 4 You sit at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that you will come to be our judge.
- 5 We therefore pray you, help your servants,
whom you have redeemed with your precious blood.
- 6 Make them to be numbered with your saints
in glory everlasting.

Glory be 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.

The sermon

Prayers

Our intercessions are led, including the response:

May your [reign] come
Lord, hear our prayer.

**Keep us, good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy
In this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
And lift up all who are brought low;
That we may rejoice in your comfort
Knowing that nothing can separate us from your love,
In Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Collect

**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;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Trusting in the compassion of God,
Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.
“Our Father, who art in heaven ...”

Hymn

Meekness and majesty,
manhood and deity,
in perfect harmony,
the man who is God:
Lord of eternity,
dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility
and washes our feet.

*O what a mystery,
meekness and majesty:
bow down and worship,
for this is your God,
this is your God!*

Father's pure radiance,
perfect in innocence,
yet learns obedience
to death on a cross:
suff'ring to give us life,
conqu'ring through sacrifice;
and, as they crucify,
prays, 'Father, forgive.'

*O what a mystery,
meekness and majesty:
bow down and worship,
for this is our God,
this is our God!*

Wisdom unsearchable,
God the invisible,
Love indestructible
in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity,
stooping so tenderly,
lifts our humanity
to the heights of his throne.

*O what a mystery,
meekness and majesty:
bow down and worship,
for this is our God,
this is our God!
this is our God!*

Graham Kendrick
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The Conclusion

The blessing, followed by:

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.
Amen.

The Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
**The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 29:9-10