

Morning Prayer
26th November - Christ the King
(We will be following this in our own homes at 10.30am)

Please read these words out loud, or in your heart.

Preparation

The Lord our God, the almighty, reigns.

Let us rejoice and shout for joy,

and give God the glory.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen.

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

let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence may be kept, to ask forgiveness of our sins
and to seek God's strength for our life of service.*

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

¹¹ "For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. ¹² As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. ¹⁴ I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will tend my sheep and make them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁶ I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice...

²⁰ "Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says to them: see, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹ Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, ²² I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. ²³ I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will 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-end

³¹'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴'Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

³⁷'Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you ill or in prison and go to visit you?"

⁴⁰'The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

⁴¹'Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me."

⁴⁴'They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?"

⁴⁵'He will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."

⁴⁶'Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Song of Christ's Glory

- 1 Christ Jesus was in the form of God,
but he did not cling to equality with God.
- 2 He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,
and was born in our human likeness.
- 3 Being found in human form he humbled himself,
and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
- 4 Therefore God has highly exalted him,
and bestowed on him the name above every name,
- 5 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth;
- 6 And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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.

Prayers

Please offer your own prayers following these suggestions, if you wish, with the response below:

- ¶ *for the day and its tasks*
- ¶ *for the world and its needs*
- ¶ *for the Church and her life*
- ¶ *for all in positions of authority*

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Silence may be kept.

O God, the Father of lights,
who by the entrance of your word give light to the soul:
grant to us the spirit of wisdom and understanding;
that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture,
we may receive with faith the words of eternal life,
and be made wise to salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

after the Church of Scotland Book of Common Order

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 ..."
The Lord's Prayer is said

The Conclusion

To him who is able to keep us from falling
and to present us without blemish
before the presence of his glory with rejoicing,
to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, dominion and authority,
before all time and now and for ever.
Amen.

Jude 24, 25

Let us bless the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

*Our benefice service of Holy Communion takes place today at
Sawley at 10.30 am*

Everyone from across the benefice (and beyond) is welcome at all services.