

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

All: Amen.

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

All: Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Voluntary: *March in C - Louis Lefébure-Wély*

Played by Matt Wright

*You are welcome to leave but it may be possible to interact
for a few minutes by Zoom after the service if you might
like, which will help us explore the possibilities...*

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(responses led by Ruth Vaughan at home)

O God, make speed to save us.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Your faithful servants bless you.

All: They make known the glory of your kingdom.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
our light and our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

Now, as darkness is falling,
wash away our transgressions,
cleanse us by your refining fire

and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.
By the light of Christ, dispel the darkness of our hearts
and make us ready to enter your kingdom,
where songs of praise for ever sound.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn: Christ is the King! O friends rejoice

sung by St Martin's Voices (mp3)

Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;
brothers and sisters, with one voice
tell all world he is your choice.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O magnify the Lord, and raise
anthems of joy and holy praise
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O Christian women, Christian men,
all the world over, seek again
the way disciples followed then.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let love's unconquerable might
your scattered companies unite
in service to the Lord of light.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

So shall God's will on earth be done,
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,
and the whole Church at last be one.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

George K A Bell (1883-1958) © Oxford University Press

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

*Yours the glory and the crown
The high renown, the eternal name*

Priestly King, enthroned forever
High in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never
Stifle hymns of love:

*Yours the glory and the crown
The high renown, the eternal name*

So, our hearts and voices raising
Through the ages long
Ceaselessly upon You gazing
This shall be our song:

*Yours the glory and the crown
The high renown, the eternal name*

Michael Seward (1932-2015)

Blessing:
(responses led by Sue & Chris Mitchell)

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

All: Amen.

**For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning
Sung by the Christ Church Choir (mp3)

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
Yours the glory and the crown
The high renown, the eternal name
Suffering Servant, scorned, ill-treated
Victim crucified!
Death is through the cross defeated
Sinners justified:

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever.

(response led by Robin Quine at Home)

All: Amen.

Psalm 93
(responses led by Robin Quine at Home)

The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel;

**All: the Lord has put on his glory
and girded himself with strength.**

He has made the whole world so sure

All: that it cannot be moved.

Your throne has been established from of old;

All: you are from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O Lord,
the floods have lifted up their voice;

All: the floods lift up their pounding waves.

Mightier than the thunder of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea,

All: the Lord on high is mightier.

Your testimonies are very sure;

All: holiness adorns your house, O Lord, for ever.

All: **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.**

Reading: 2 Samuel 23:1-7

(read by Catherine Jeffries in church)

God's everlasting covenant with David

Now these are the last words of David:
The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favourite of the Strong One of Israel:
The spirit of the Lord speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.
The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:
One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,
is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.
Is not my house like this with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.

The 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.
(response led by Charles & Emma Bartram at home)
All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
(led by Charles & Emma Bartram at home)

All: **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.**

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,

All: to remember his promise of mercy,

The promise made to our ancestors,

All: to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

**All: 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.

**All: The righteous will shine like the sun
in the kingdom of their Father.**

Sermon: The Venerable Karen Hutchinson *(in church)*

Prayers: *(prayers led by Peter Smith in church,*

responses by David & Dee Scott at home)

These responses may be used

Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, graciously hear us.

At the end:

Merciful Father,

**All: accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Will he not cause to prosper

all my help and my desire?

But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;

to touch them one uses an iron bar
or the shaft of a spear.

And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn: The head that once was crowned by thorns

Sung by the Christ Church Choir (mp3)

The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heav'n affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
and heav'n's eternal Light:

Women: The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love,
and grants his name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is giv'n;
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heav'n.

Men: They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the myst'ry of his love.

The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

(read by Caroline Gibbs at home)

Christ has all authority and his commandments should be obeyed

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son

and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

(response led by Mike & Steph Brookes at home)

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

The Magnificat

(responses led by Mike & Steph Brookes at home)

**All: The righteous will shine like the sun
in the kingdom of their Father.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

All: he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed;

**All: the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him,

All: from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm

All: and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones

All: and lifting up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things

All: and sent the rich away empty.