

*Evening Prayer
from All Saints' Day until
the day before the First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, 21 November 2021
Christ the King
The Sunday next before Advent*

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Your faithful servants bless you.
They make known the glory of your kingdom.

HYMN

This opening prayer may be said

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

Silence is kept.

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.
Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

*Psalm 72**

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.

Give the king your judgements, O God, ♦
and your righteousness to the son of a king.

Then shall he judge your people righteously ♦
and your poor with justice.

May the mountains bring forth peace, ♦
and the little hills righteousness for the people.

May he defend the poor among the people, ♦
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, ♦
from one generation to another.

May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, ♦
like the showers that water the earth.

In his time shall righteousness flourish, ♦
and abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more.

May his dominion extend from sea to sea ♦
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

May his foes kneel before him ♦
and his enemies lick the dust.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; ♦
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.

All kings shall fall down before him; ♦
all nations shall do him service.

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, ♦
the needy and those who have no helper.

He shall have pity on the weak and poor; ♦
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, ♦
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

Long may he live;
unto him may be given gold from Sheba; ♦
may prayer be made for him continually
and may they bless him all the day long.

May there be abundance of grain on the earth,
standing thick upon the hilltops; ♦
may its fruit flourish like Lebanon
and its grain grow like the grass of the field.

May his name remain for ever
and be established as long as the sun endures; ♦
may all nations be blest in him
and call him blessed.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, ♦
who alone does wonderful things.

And blessed be his glorious name for ever. ♦
May all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

**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.**

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.

Canticle

A Song of God's Assembled

Refrain:

**We have come before the throne of God
to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.**

We have come before God's holy mountain, ♦
to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.

We have come before countless angels making festival, ♦
before the assembly of the firstborn citizens of heaven.

We have come before God, who is judge of all, ♦
before the spirits of the just made perfect.

We have come before Jesus, ♦
the mediator of the new covenant.

We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken: ♦
so let us give thanks and offer to God acceptable worship,

Full of reverence and awe; ♦
for our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12.22-24a, 28, 29

**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.**

**We have come before the throne of God
to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.**

Scripture Reading

Daniel 5

King Belshazzar made a great festival for a thousand of his lords, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.

Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar commanded that they bring in the vessels of gold and silver that his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. So they brought in the vessels of gold and silver that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the wall of the royal palace, next to the lampstand. The king was watching the hand as it wrote. Then the king's face turned pale, and his thoughts terrified him. His limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together. The king cried aloud to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the diviners; and the king said to the wise men of Babylon, 'Whoever can read this writing and tell me its interpretation shall be clothed in purple, have a chain of gold around his neck, and rank third in the kingdom.' Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king the interpretation. Then King Belshazzar became greatly terrified and his face turned pale, and his lords were perplexed.

The queen, when she heard the discussion of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting-hall. The queen said, 'O king, live for ever! Do not let your thoughts terrify you or your face grow pale. There is a man in your kingdom who is endowed with a spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father he was found to have enlightenment, understanding, and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and diviners, because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Beltshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation.'

Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king said to Daniel, 'So you are Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah? I have heard of you that a spirit of the gods is in you, and that enlightenment, understanding, and excellent wisdom are found in you. Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and tell me its interpretation, but they were not able to give the interpretation of the matter. But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you are able to read the writing and tell me its interpretation, you shall be clothed in purple, have a chain of gold around your neck, and rank third in the kingdom.'

Then Daniel answered in the presence of the king, 'Let your gifts be for yourself, or give your rewards to someone else! Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and let him know the interpretation. O king, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar kingship, greatness, glory, and majesty. And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. He killed those he wanted to kill, kept alive those he wanted to keep alive, honoured those he wanted to honour, and degraded those he wanted to degrade. But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he acted proudly, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and his glory was stripped from him. He was driven from human society, and his mind was made like that of an animal. His dwelling was with the wild asses, he was fed grass like oxen, and his body was bathed with the dew of heaven, until he learned that the Most High God has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals, and sets over it whomsoever he will. And you, Belshazzar his son, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this! You have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven! The vessels of his temple have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them. You have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know; but the God in whose power is your very breath, and to whom belong all your ways, you have not honoured.

'So from his presence the hand was sent and this writing was inscribed. And this is the writing that was inscribed: mene, mene, tekel, and parsin. This is the interpretation of the matter: mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; tekel, you have been weighed on the scales and found wanting; peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.'

Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed in purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made concerning him that he should rank third in the kingdom.

That very night Belshazzar, the Chaldean king, was killed. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

The Magnificat

**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; ♦
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed; ♦
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him, ♦
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm ♦
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones ♦
and lifting up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things ♦
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, ♦
to remember his promise of mercy,

The promise made to our ancestors, ♦
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

**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.**

Refrain:

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

Prayers

The Collect of the day is said

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.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

The Conclusion

May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.