



## Worship@Home

Sunday 20th November 2022

Sunday before Advent



### Opening Sentence

When Jesus was crucified the inscription over him read, "This is the King of the Jews."

### Hymn: StF55 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

Sing/ Read /pray the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PS3QinSmPHI>

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render: O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

*Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)*

### A time of prayer

Lord Jesus, you came into the world as a human being. For this we praise and thank you. You lived our life, understand our issues, and saw the best and worst of humanity. For this we praise and thank you.

Marvellously you are also our King. King over the earth, King of the universe, King over time from beginning to end. To you with joy we bring our praise, our thanksgiving, our loyalty and our service. In the name of King Jesus Amen.

We take a moment of stillness to call to mind the ways in which we have let others and also let God down in the past week.

### Silence

Christ is King is merciful and forgiving, he declares to all who come in penitence and faith. 'Your sins are forgiven'.

### Today's Gospel Reading: Luke 23.33-43

### Time to Reflect

Since the death of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we are getting used to having a King for the first time in over 70 years. Today is traditionally the celebration of Christ the King. So I invite you to reflect on some aspects of the kingship of Jesus inspired by our reading from St. Luke.

Kings of long ago believed that they ruled by divine right. Jesus our King, as we shall see in a few weeks comes by divine action. He comes not to overcome, but in humility to live among us.

A King has the power to offer gifts and to pardon. In Luke 23.43 Jesus gives to the penitent thief forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." Jesus our King offers forgiveness and a new start to all who sincerely make the request.

If a nation was defeated in War and their King taken prisoner, he would expect to be punished, very probably by being put to death as a sign of the defeat of his people. Jesus goes to the cross not on behalf of a single nation, but for the sake of the whole world. His death is not a sign of defeat, but a sign of our reconciliation to God.

Earthly Kings are by virtue of their humanity limited to a particular time and place. The Kingship of Jesus is eternal. The first couplet of Ivor Jones' hymn expresses it beautifully,  
STF 318

Christ, our King before creation,  
life, before all life began

As we approach Advent and prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ; remember Christ the King. Our Eternal King.

Whose qualities are so different to those of any earthly king. Our King whose exploits, his life, death, resurrection and ascension are as relevant for us as they were for the first Disciples and the early Church.

Take a time to sit quietly

### **A time of prayer**

Remembering Christ our King, we pray for people in our world who make decisions that effect the lives of many. The leaders of nations, the United Nations. Grant to them wisdom and discernment in the tasks they perform. We pray for our own King Charles and for the Government, devolved administrations in the UK, and British Crown Dependencies.

We pray for the Church throughout the world as we celebrate Christ the King. May all Christians be united in a desire to do Christ's will and determined whenever possible to work together in his name. We pray for our neighbouring churches and for other churches in our Circuit. We pray for the Connexional Team.

We take a time of quiet to make our own prayers. For those we know who are unwell or in any kind of need..... For the needs and aspirations in mission of our local churches.....

We make all our prayers in the name of King Jesus. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father .....*

### **Hymn: StF264 Make way, make way, for Christ the King**

Sing/Read/pray the words or listen to it here  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alCQ7fb0hEA>

Make way, make way, for Christ the King  
in splendour arrives;  
fling wide the gates and welcome him  
into your lives.

*Make way (Make way), make way (make way),  
for the King of kings (for the King of kings);  
make way (make way), make way (make way),  
and let his Kingdom in.*

He comes the broken hearts to heal,  
the prisoners to free;  
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,  
the blind shall see.

And those who mourn with heavy hearts,  
who weep and sigh,  
with laughter, joy and royal crown  
he'll beautify.

We call you now to worship him  
as Lord of all,  
to have no gods before him,  
their thrones must fall!

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

May the love of Christ our King touch our hearts and minds.

May the example of Christ our King inspire us on our journeys of life and faith.

May the Spirit of Christ the King dwell among us and within us for evermore.

In the name of Christ the King. Amen.

Original Materials by E Adam Wells

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### **Luke 23 v 33 - 43**

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[ Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'