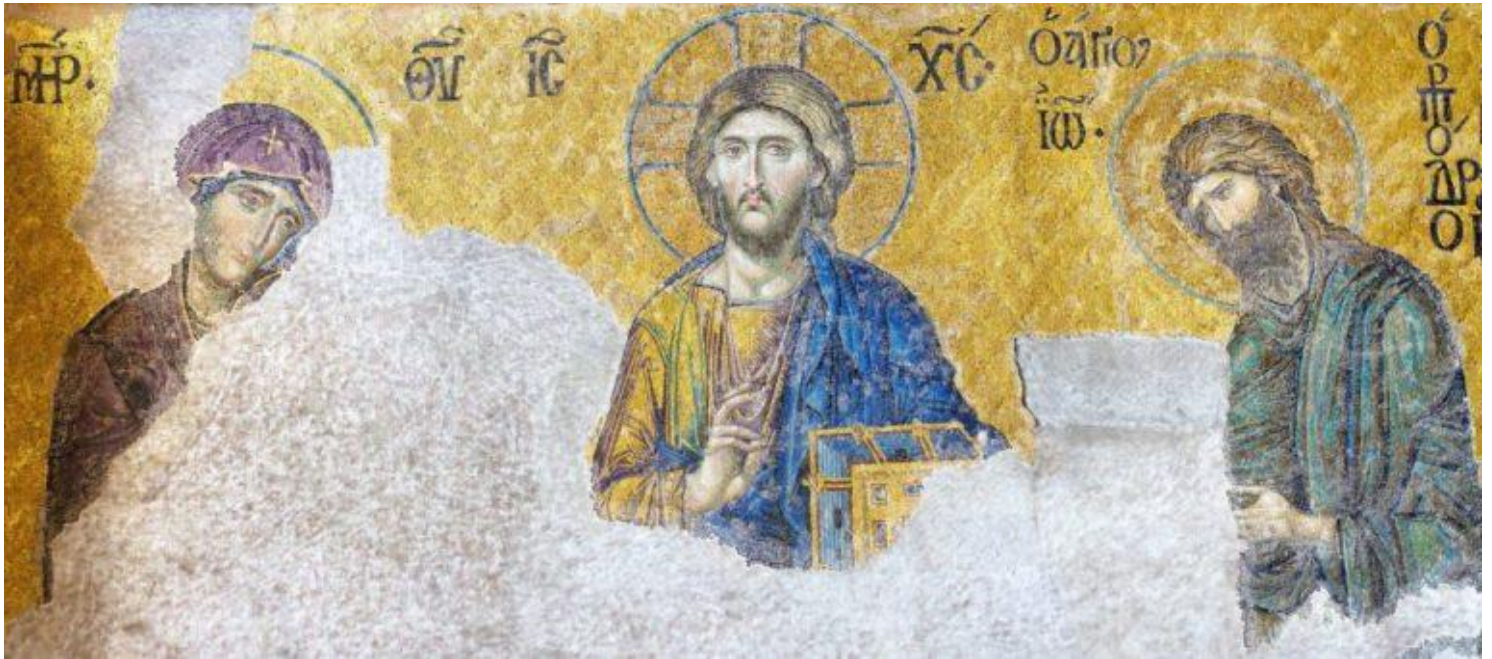


Sunday 21 November 2021

Christ the King



Sermon © Revd Dr Paul Monk.

Liturgy and prayers of intercession © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 The Spirit lives to set us free (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Jesus says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand’.

So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,

**Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for Christ the King

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the book of the Prophet Daniel

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. *Daniel 7:9-10*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the Revelation of St John the Divine

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins

by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 1:4b-8

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Jesus is king

[\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'

Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' *John 18:33-37*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Next Sunday is Advent Sunday, and the principal theme of Advent is preparation and waiting to meet with Jesus, both at his coming as a baby at Christmas but also at His Second coming as lord and judge at the end of time. Today in the Church calendar we look at the idea of Christ being a King. Today's readings act as something of a 'heads up,' telling us what sort of a King we should be looking for during that Advent vigil.

Sadly, most of us, if we're honest, don't often think about the Kingship of Jesus; but when (or even 'if') we do, we imagine a vaguely spiritualised version of worldly power: think of those images of Jesus sitting on a throne and wearing a crown and

costly cloth. In today's Gospel Jesus tells us otherwise. To kickstart the discussion, we hear a brief excerpt from a conversation between Jesus and Pontius Pilate, who was a Roman puppet-king whose power came from his overlord, Caesar. Pilate asks Jesus if He is a King to which he replied, 'My kingdom is not of this world.'

Christ is a King but we must forget other images of kingship and power. Jesus does things differently. So let's follow Christ the King and see how he used power.

At once, we sense that He's inviting us to make a new kind of world characterised by upside-down values—a topsy-turvy world in which the first are last, the last are first; a world in which those with any power is used to elevate the weak. It's a multistranded approach.

In the first strand, Jesus reversed the vast physical needs he saw everywhere. He embraced the unloved and in every possible way healed the ills he encountered: he therefore fed the hungry and healed the sick. We, as followers, must do the same.

In the second strand, Jesus reversed the spiritual need he saw everywhere. That's why he forgave and healed souls. He dealt with causes as well as effects, so he removed the barrier between earth and Heaven on the Cross. We also share this second form of Kingdom work when we forgive and refuse retribution. That's why he taught his disciples how to pray, retraining them for worship.

These twin strands are, however, merely the means to a bigger end. We're healed in body, mind, and spirit, to ensure that we can share Jesus' Kingship. As St Peter says in his Second Letter, 'Through these [gifts], he has given us his very great and precious promises, *so that through them we may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*' (This verse appears in 2 Peter 1:4.) No earthly king shares their kingship in this way, but Christ the King gives us his Spirit at Pentecost, at baptism, so that we can be like him. Each of us contains a share of his divinity, which we carry with us wherever we go.

This claim seems large until we remember St Paul's idea of 'the body': between us, we cohere together as a spiritual entity to create a spiritual unit in which Jesus lives and operates full strength. It becomes Christ the King here on earth.

If true, Jesus works through us to help him bring about these upside-downnesses into today's world. We know that's what he wants because all the way through the Gospels, we hear him talking about 'the Kingdom.' Remember, when Jesus teaches us to pray, his template (which we call the 'Lord's Prayer') reiterates the request, 'Your Kingdom come', which is code for imploring God to help us bring about these inversions. The hungry are fed, sinners are forgiven, and all of us will be gathered together to share the divinity of God, the body of Christ. We guess that's what Jesus wants because of a parable Jesus taught about a King who acts as a judge and separate the sheep from the goats. The King makes judgement on the

grounds of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. In that parable, the King's telling punchline is, 'That which you did for the least of these, you did it for me.' The King in charge of this upside-down kingdom wants us to feed the hungry, wants us to clothe the naked—in a word, he wants us to make the world better.

Today in the Church calendar, we celebrate Christ the King. We remember that Jesus is a King but his Kingdom is different from earthly expression of power. It's topsy turvy and upside down. It gives purpose and dignity to the crushed and destitute while the powerful will experience the reality of need. In his Kingdom, we become like Jesus, his power flowing through us as we work for world betterment.

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayers of intercession

Let us with confidence present our prayers and supplications to the throne of grace.
We pray for all those in positions of power,
that they may govern with wisdom and integrity,
serving the needs of their people.

May your reign come;

All Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church, the sign of your reign,
that it may extend your welcome to people of every
race and background.

May your reign come;

All Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for Christians of every denomination,
that together we may come to understand
the royal priesthood you bestowed on us in baptism.

May your reign come;

All Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose commitment to truth
brings them into conflict with earthly powers,
that they may have the courage to endure.

May your reign come;

All Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for this community of faith,
that attentive to your word
we may always worship in spirit and in truth.

May your reign come;

All Lord, hear our prayer.

Silence is kept

Loving God,
you have taught us that the power of the heart
is greater than the power of wealth and might.
Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our King;
to him be glory and power for ever.

All Amen.

Merciful Father,

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

The peace

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.
And the peace of the Lord be always with you.
The peace of the Lord be always with you,
All And also with you.

HYMN 3 I know whom I have believed (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

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

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 the Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.
All Amen.

HYMN 4 I the Lord of sea and sky (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with the oil of gladness

you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son,
to be our great high priest and king of all creation.

As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross
and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.

As king he claims dominion over all your creatures,
that he may bring before your infinite majesty
a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

And so with angels and archangels

and all the heavenly host,

we proclaim your glory and join their unending hymn of praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit,

that broken bread and wine outpoured

may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Holy Innocents and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.

 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours
 now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
 because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
 you take away the sin of the world,
 grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be
plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.