

Church of St Leonard, Southminster
Church of St Lawrence and All Saints, Steeple

Sunday 26th November 2023

Next Sunday before Advent

'Christ the King'

Reading 1: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Opening Prayer:

Lord, direct our thoughts and
teach us to pray.

Lift up our hearts to worship you
in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn: Majesty, worship His Majesty
(Click link)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNnTFDNPT3U&list=RDSNnTFDNPT3U&start_r
adio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNnTFDNPT3U&list=RDSNnTFDNPT3U&start_radio=1)

Invitation to Confession:

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.

cf Matthew 4.17

Confession:

**O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name,
Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you
to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Absolution:

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by His Spirit,

and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Blessed be the Lord

for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

and in our song will we praise our God.

Reading 1: Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul's Prayer

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew: 25: 31-46

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven. *Luke 19.38*

Alleluia.

The Judgement of the Nations

³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." ⁴¹ Then he will

say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Talk: (Click link) https://youtu.be/F4FAKe_Nt8g

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Hymn: I'm accepted, I'm forgiven

(Click link) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyW9s_BIIVl

The Creed:

Let us declare our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.

Amen.

cf 1 Corinthians 15.3-7

Prayers of Intercession:

Dear Lord, king of glory,
we lift our intercessions before your throne.
We plead for your world.
Your heart must break at what you see today;
lands ravaged by war, torn apart by evil actions.
We pray against dark intentions and hardened hearts.

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, king of glory,
soften hearts, open minds to your light of love.
Lord, we pray for hostilities to cease in Ukraine,

between Israel and Gaza and in all lands where unrest is rife.
We pray for all civilians caught up in atrocities.
But today we pray for,
the newborn babies brought safely out of Gaza,
we pray too for the safe release of all hostages.
We pray for aid to be allowed through to reach those in dire need.
We pray that people of goodwill on both sides will
use the ceasefire to allow such aid in and that the
ceasefire will indeed allow for hostages to be released.
Above all, we pray that a lasting solution may be found to the conflict so that
peace and security may be experienced by all people.
We pray for an end to conflict in this world.

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, king of glory,
rule over your world.
Bring peace and restoration.
We pray for all Christians affected by tension and
violence because of their faith.
We pray for Jews in this country who are being
targeted because of the war between Israel and Gaza.
We also pray that those who continue lawful marches in
solidarity with the Palestinian people will not
be accused of hate marches.
We pray for peace.

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, king of glory,
may your people be rooted and established in
the safety of your love.
We pray for governments the world over.
Many speak promises yet their actions can be
corrupted by the lust for power and greed.
We pray for stability within our own government and
the fulfilment of promises made.
May all in parliament look to serve the people and
not their own importance and may all decisions
made be governed by compassion and
with those most in need in their minds.
We pray for an end to injustice.

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, king of glory,
may your truth and justice rule over all.

We pray for churches throughout the land to
rise and abide by your Word.
Bring leaders to the fore who will not waver
from your truth and lead accordingly.
We pray for children who have lost their way,
succumbing to worldly influences.
Good shepherd, bring the lost sheep back to the fold.
We pray that we all live according to your example.

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, king of glory,
restore the lost.
Guide us all on your path by the true light of your love.
We pray for all who are suffering;
the lonely, the sick, the abused and the bereaved.
We pray for the NHS, for community nursing and
for all those whose health is deteriorating because
of lengthy waiting lists.
We pray for those suffering mental health issues who
are struggling to find help due to lack of resources.
Lord, you are always there to listen and call upon.
Help those in turmoil to find their way to you.
Bring into their lives people who will walk with them
in the dark times and accompany them to greener pastures.
We pray comfort for the broken-hearted.

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, king of glory,
be present and mend shattered lives.
We pray for our neighbourhoods:
for rough sleepers and families living with insecurity.
For the poor needing help with finances and food.
We pray for the work of the Dengie Food Pantry and
the agencies who refer people to this service.
We pray for the volunteers and
those who generously support the work with donations.
We pray for children in need of loving care and
a safe place to call home.
For our streets where knife crime is growing and
'no go' areas exist for many.
For those who have been victims of crime.
We pray that you transform our communities.

**Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, king of glory,
open eyes to see and respond to the needs of others.
Help match actions to words.
Give us the boldness to act.
Dear Lord, king of glory,
pour out your loving mercy and grace on us we pray.

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Collect:

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.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

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 forever.
Amen.

*Let us pause for a moment to bring ourselves
and all that we offer to God and give Him thanks.*

Hymn: Christ Triumphant
(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-i3zVtvakl0>

Blessing:

Christ our King make you faithful and
strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Final Acclamation

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

‘Who is the King of glory?’

**‘The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.’**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

‘Who is this King of glory?’

**‘The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.’**

Hymn: The Blessing [The Lord bless you and keep you]
(Click link) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtlI3mNj5U>