

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for the feast of Christ the King. Let us be still and recognise we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

Today we come to the last Sunday of the Church Year, and what a year! The Church gives us this feast of Christ the King, as a simple reminder that whatever we are living through, we can have hope and faith in Jesus' loving sovereignty over all things – a sovereignty unlike our usual expectations of the way power is wielded, a sovereignty we only come to understand as we yield to its compassion and love.

Our confession is a chance to bring to God for transformation all the obstacles to living as those who know and share such compassion and love.

The Kingdom is yours but we turn away from your just rule,
Lord have mercy

The power is yours but we trust in our own power and strength
Christ have mercy

The glory is yours but we fall short of the glory of God
Lord have mercy

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins and bring you to everlasting life Amen

Let us pray:

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, on God, one glory. Amen.

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 25: 31-end

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

We pray for the Church, a sign of your reign, that it may extend your welcome to all people. We pray of Christians of all denominations that together we may come to understand the royal priesthood bestowed on us at baptism. We pray for this community of faith, that attentive to your word we may always worship in spirit and truth May your kingdom come

Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for all those in positions of power, that they may govern with wisdom and integrity serving the needs of all people. We pray for all whose commitment to truth brings them into conflict with earthly powers, that they may have the courage to endure. May your kingdom come.

Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for our local communities, especially for those who feel vulnerable at this time because affording the basic needs of life is difficult or isolation is bringing loneliness and anxiety. May compassion and love may be at the heart of our common life. May your Kingdom come.

Lord hear our prayer

We pray for all who are suffering today, that they may know the comfort of your presence and the healing that is according to your will for them. Bless too, all who work to relief suffering. May your Kingdom come.

Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died, that they may know the joy of your eternal love, and that we with them may come to share in the fullness of your Kingdom. May your Kingdom come.

Lord hear our prayer

We gather all these intercessions in the prayer Jesus gave 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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

The traditional collect for the Sunday before Advent:

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. Amen.

And we pray for God's blessing on each of us, all who we love and all for whom we pray:

Christ, our exalted King pour upon you his abundant gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you today and remain with you always. Amen.