

The Order of Service for Home Worship

CHRIST THE KING - The Fourth Sunday of the Kingdom



Hymn 1: Crown Him with Many Crowns.

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
Hark, all the heavenly anthems drown all music but its own:
Awake my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
And hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.
2. Crown him the Virgin's Son, the God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won which now his brow adorn;
Fruit of the mystic Rose, as of that Rose the stem,
The Root, whence mercy ever flows, the Babe of Bethlehem.
3. Crown him the Lord of love, behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends each burning eye at mysteries so bright.
4. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, absorbed in prayer and
praise:
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend, their fragrance ever sweet.
5. Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Grace and peace be with you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Father of glory, holy and eternal, look upon us now in power and mercy. May your strength overcome our weakness, your radiance transform our blindness, and your Spirit draw us to that love shown and offered to us by your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

As we come into the presence of our heavenly Father let us seek his forgiveness of our sins that we may know his peace is our hearts.

Lord Jesus, you show us the way to the Father. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you have given us knowledge of your truth. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd leading us into life. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, glory be to God on high;
Alleluia, to the Saviour who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia, Alleluia, to the Triune Majesty.**

Collect: 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; grant this for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Jeremiah **23. 1-6**

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.' This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

Response: The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with is tumult. **R/**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
The holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are un an uproar, the Kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. **R/**

Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the
He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; [earth.
He breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.
Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.
The Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. **R/**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians. (1. 11-20)

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to S. Luke.

(23. 33-43)

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation *The feast of Christ the King brings the Church's year to a close and with it comes a reminder in the Gospel that the cycle of our own lives on earth will also, one day, reach its conclusion. As Disciples of Christ our sure hope is that when our life in this world comes to an end we will join him in the glory of his eternal Kingdom of Heaven. For the Kingdom of Christ is not of this world, his authority is given to him by God the Father, but through his Church the Kingdom of Christ is manifested in this world. In our lives we enjoy many blessings, most importantly the relationships we enjoy with those we love and who love us, our families and friends. But life can also be challenging. Sickness, bereavement, loneliness can be a real challenges to many. Economic hardship, the worry of how to provide for their families, fear for the security of their families which drive so many to run for their lives away from their homes in areas of conflict to seek sanctuary where they can feel safe can bring despair. We, as the Church, the Body of Christ on earth, is called to proclaim the truth of God, the truth of Christ and his Kingdom, to reach out and welcome all in his name, bringing love, joy, peace and hope to a world in need. What the Church is emphasising today is the importance listening to the voice of Jesus and of turning our lives and hearts to God in response to his calling. Today as we celebrate the Kingship of Christ over heaven and earth we celebrate that he has called us into fellowship with him and with one another, that he has called us to work with him in building his Kingdom on earth. He has entrusted this little part of his world to our care and protection and He has gone before us to prepare a place for each of us in the Father's house where one day we will be brought to be with him forever. Today we enthrone Jesus, the King of all*

creation, as King of our own hearts. We thank God that he has revealed to us the truth of his kingdom of life, his kingdom of peace, love, justice and hope. As faithful followers of Christ we pledge ourselves to working with him in building his Kingdom on earth, in proclaiming the truth of his Kingdom of love. This we do in performing small acts of charity which can mean so much, when we reach out to someone in need. When we bring hope, love, peace of mind to someone the truth of Christ the King is revealed and the boundary of his Kingdom extends further into the world. Amen.

Intercessions:

In the power of the Holy Spirit and in union with Christ let us bring our prayers for the Church and for the world to our heavenly Father.

We pray for the Church throughout the world, for the leaders of the Church among them Mary our Bishop. We pray for the clergy and people of our diocese and for our own Church and the Churches of our Ministry Area; may the Church be a faithful sign of Christ's love and compassion for all.

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

We pray for the people of the world, for the victims of violence and oppression, for all suffering the effects of natural disaster and for those suffering from famine or drought; that all people may come to recognise the kingship of Christ and spread his Kingdom by promoting peace and justice for all.

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

We pray for our own community, for our families, friends and neighbours. We give thanks for all who serve the needs of the vulnerable; May we prepare for the way for the coming of the Kingdom in our homes and our community.

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

We pray for all who are in need, for those who are sick, for those who are bereaved, for the lonely and isolated and for all in any kind of need. We hold in our hearts before God those known to us who are in need at this time and all whose names are recorded in our intercession books; may they be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and consoled with the love of Christ.

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

We pray for all who have died. We remember before God our own departed loved ones, we pray for the recently departed and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they share the eternal glory of heaven in the company of all the saints.

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

We bring all our prayers to our heavenly Father as we pray together:

**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 Peace:

Jesus said, Peace I bequeath to you; my own peace I give you; a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

The peace of the Lord be with you and with all those whom you love.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for those who trust in you: look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn 2: Christ whose glory fills the skies.

- 1. Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night.
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar in my heart appear.**
- 2. Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee;
Joyless is the day's return,
Till thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my hearts.**
- 3. Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.**