

May Christ our King reign over us,
his love inspire us,
his footsteps guide us,
his peace be with us.
May Christ our King reign over us, now and always.

A candle may be lit and silence is kept.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, may Christ,
the true, the only light,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.
so that our lives may glorify you. **Amen.**

Prayer of 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.

The kingdom is yours, but we turn away from your just rule:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The power is yours, but we trust in our own power and strength:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

The glory is yours, but we fall short of the glory of God:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Prayer

Almighty God, your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us new hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 93

- 1 The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel; ♦
the Lord has put on his glory and girded himself with strength.
- 2 He has made the whole world so sure ♦
that it cannot be moved.
- 3 Your throne has been established from of old; ♦
you are from everlasting.
- 4 The floods have lifted up, O Lord,
the floods have lifted up their voice; ♦
the floods lift up their pounding waves.
- 5 Mightier than the thunder of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea, ♦
the Lord on high is mightier.
- 6 Your testimonies are very sure; ♦
holiness adorns your house, O Lord, for ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Bible readings for the Christ the King *(Sunday next before Advent)*

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 – *Daniel is given a vision of the Son of Man (Jesus) receiving triumphant vindication and exaltation. Jesus representing all the saints, who have suffered persecution and death.*

Revelation 1:4-8 – *John offers thanksgiving to God that Jesus Christ is vindicated through his suffering and death, which is the ground of confidence and hope for all believers who have been persecuted because of their faith.*

John 18:33-38a – *Pilate questions Jesus as to whether he is a King and he is confused by Jesus' response because Pilate doesn't know of a kingdom that isn't advanced by violence and instead is advanced by truth.*

(A few moments of quiet for thought, thanksgiving & reflection)

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

'Look, he is coming with the clouds,' and 'every eye will see him, even those who pierced him'; and all peoples on earth 'will mourn because of him.' So shall it 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 1:4-8

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a servant,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

(Philippians 2.6-11)

Prayers *(we can add our own prayers at each section)*

Let us with confidence present our prayers 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;

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 kingdom come;

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 dominion come;

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 rule come; **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;

Lord, hear our prayer.

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. **Amen.**

The Collect for Christ the King *(Sunday next before Advent)*

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;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(or the traditional form, if you prefer)*

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.

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.**

Blessing

May God, who kindled the fire of his love
in the hearts of the saints,
pour upon us the riches of his grace.
May God give us joy in their fellowship, and a share in their praises.
May God strengthen us to follow them in the way
of holiness and to come to the full radiance of glory.
And may the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, now and always. **Amen.**