



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (A) Sunday 23rd November 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

A: How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: We come to the last Sunday of the Church's year, and celebrate Jesus as King – not just of one country, or even one planet, but as King of the Universe! But Jesus is a very different King from any earthly monarch – remember this is the humble King who rides a donkey, the servant King who reigns from the cross. And yet he is the Judge of all! Let us welcome him, and begin by praising God and asking for mercy, as we say:

Gloria

A: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the

whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading *Matthew 25:31-46*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never

visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

Absolute monarchy is not something our contemporary society is comfortable with – most monarchies in our world today are "constitutional" or limited in some way. When a leader starts behaving like an absolute monarch, warnings about civil liberty and the rights of the people begin to be raised. So it can seem strange that today we celebrate the most absolute monarchy you can imagine – Jesus Christ, King of the Universe! That word "king" implies a "kingdom", and we know that Jesus frequently talked about the "Kingdom of God" or the "Kingdom of Heaven". His kingdom, as he himself pointed out to Pontius Pilate, is "not of this world". It is not a geographical kingdom, marked by borders and customs posts, but a kingdom of the mind and heart, the soul and spirit. We choose to be citizens of that Kingdom by our own behaviour, priorities and actions, as Jesus defines in today's Gospel. It is by our lives of mercy and kindness that we belong to His Kingdom, that we claim Him as our King, that we prepare to welcome Him in His glory.

For our Younger Friends

Let's do some more imagining today: imagine you get a phone call, saying that the Queen is coming to visit you! She wants to come to your house, have tea with you, and perhaps watch some telly or play a game. Would you be excited? Would you want to tell your friends

all about it? Would you get new clothes, clean your room, tidy your house, get some special food in? I bet you would! Well, today we hear that a King is going to visit us – but not just any King, not a King of England or Europe of the World, but the King of the Universe - Jesus! Wow! What will we do to get ready for Jesus? There will be lots more about this when we start Advent next weekend, but for now listen to what Jesus says in the Gospel – we get ready for his visit by being kind and helpful, especially to people in need. What could you do, at home or a school, to help someone in need?

If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to discuss what this Gospel passage means to you. If alone, think about what key message you take from the Scriptures today.

Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions

L: Let us think of our prayers for the world and the Church this Sunday.

L: Today is Youth Sunday, so we pray for our young people, that amidst all the challenges and choices of this world, they may make space for Jesus in their lives. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for states and nations throughout our world, that leaders may act with integrity and justice, in search of peace for all in their care and the common good of all humanity. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for the Church, that we may always remember to carry out

the works of mercy by which Christ our King will judge us. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

A: 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. Amen.

L: As we offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice by which the human race is reconciled to you, we humbly pray, that your Son himself may bestow on all nations the gifts of unity and peace. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Before Spiritual Communion

L: Most loving Father, you anointed your Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, with the oil of gladness as eternal Priest and King of all creation, so that, by offering himself on the altar of the Cross as a spotless sacrifice to bring us peace, he might accomplish the mysteries of human redemption and, making all created things subject to his rule, he might present to the immensity of your majesty an eternal and universal kingdom, a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to

receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

A: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

L: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

A: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

L: Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.

A: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

L: You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

A: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

L: Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me

all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

A: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Having received spiritually the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in his heavenly kingdom. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!