
November 22, 2020

**Reign of Christ
Year A**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Ephesian 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

SELECTED READING AND THEME:

Matthew 25:31-46

The one who is God incarnate

CALL TO WORSHIP

This day we celebrate the reign of Christ.
Here we lay ourselves before him,
to rededicate our lives
to the one who is the core of our existence.
**Let us worship the one in whom
we live and breathe and have our being.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Lord Jesus Christ,
whom we know as living Word,
creator, redeemer and bringer of life,
may we be lost in your Spirit
as we seek to honour you with our praise,
adoration, worship and thanksgiving. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God,
in the chaos of our busy lives
we confess that we too easily crowd out
the whispering presence of your Spirit
and lose sight of the incredible gifts you have given us.
We are distracted by our daily routine
and seek solace in trivial distractions.
Instead of acknowledging you as the lord of life,
seeking to discern your will for us and your world,
we follow unhelpful voices
and patterns of behavior.

Forgive us that, even though we know greater truth,
we fail to obey your commandments.
May your forgiveness lead to transformation,
that your way may be our way. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In Christ we find true forgiveness.
Through confession and repentance
eternal and abundant life is given.
In the name of the Christ, I declare:
our sins are forgiven.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

All loving God,
we know you as creator, redeemer and sustainer.
Receive our praise and thanksgiving for all that you are.
By your Word, the cosmos was brought into being.
By your Word, the law was given and community established.
By your Word the prophets called forth justice.
By your Word you became one of us
and wrought salvation in love.
By your Word we encounter the leading of your Spirit.
By your Word, we have hope for every future.
You, Jesus Christ, are the living Word.
All glory be yours forever. Amen.

DISCIPLESHIP THOUGHT

Reading the New Testament, we get something of a glimpse of the ways in which the first Christians tried to grasp the fullness of the person and work of Jesus. John calls him the Word of God. Peter names him Messiah, the Christ. Paul calls him Lord and the first-born of the new creation, while the Book of Revelation exalts him as the lamb upon the throne. Son of man, Son of God, Rabbi and Emanuel (God with us) are some of the other titles we encounter. The majesty and significance of all these names led the early church to establish the doctrine of the Trinity to affirm that we have encountered the fullness of God in Christ. Whatever we make of all this, what really matters is how we allow this one whom we worship on Christ the King Sunday to come and be rightly the head of the Body of Christ and lord of our lives. We can never fathom the depths of Christ's nature and being but we can live in obedience to his guidance and will. It is in that relationship that we dwell in abundant life.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us respond to as disciples Christ,
in the making of our offering.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Receive the gifts we bring, we pray.
They are tokens of our love for you
and our desire to serve you alone. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

King of Kings and Lord of all,
you dwelt amongst us to show us
the fulness of your love and to bring
wholeness and salvation for all.
Hear us as we open our hearts in prayer this day.
We pray for the salvation of our world,
that your created order might be restored,
that every person might have clean, clear water to drink,
food to eat and freedom to fulfil your vision for their lives.

Silent prayer

We pray for those known to us who
seek your blessing:
a healing touch,
a word of hope,
light in the midst of despair
and empowerment to face the challenges of the day.

Silent prayer

And we pray for ourselves and your church.
May we live lives that bring you honour.
May our faith be strong and our service just and true.
May we always be open to your will and way. Amen.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Christ is God incarnate,
the Lord of creation and gift of salvation.
As we have been immersed in his Spirit,
so do we go from this place
to serve in his name.

May we serve without question
through the love of God.
May we live justly through the
teachings of Jesus, the Word made flesh.
May we exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit
to extend Christ's reign in every place.
Amen.

HYMNS

Ezekiel 34: 11-15, 20-24

Come, Holy Spirit, gracious heavenly dove	TiS.710
Come, O Fount of every blessing	AHB.152
Hail Redeemer, King divine!	TiS.237 AHB.188
Lo, he comes with clouds descending	TiS.273 AHB.201
Saviour, like a shepherd, lead us	SFGP.93
The king of love my shepherd is	TiS.145 AHB.81

Psalm 100

All people that on earth do dwell	TiS.59 AHB.10
All the earth proclaim the Lord	TiS.60 AHB.100
Shout to the Lord for joy	TiS.62

Ephesians 1: 15-23

Bring many names, beautiful and good	TiS.182
Glory to our boundless God	TiS.189
Hallelujah! sing to Jesus	TiS.517 AHB.439
Jesus! the name high over all	TiS.218 AHB.150
Join all the glorious names	TiS.205 AHB.135
The church's one foundation	TiS.457 AHB.385
This a day of new beginnings	TiS.653

Matthew 25: 31-46

All go to God when they are sorely placed	TiS.240 AHB.(182)
Christ is the world's light, he and none other	TiS246 AHB.191
Crown him with many crowns	TiS.228 AHB.163
Son of God, eternal Saviour	TiS.606 AHB.529
When I needed a neighbour, were you there	TiS.629 AHB.559
When morning gilds the skies	TiS.227 AHB.151
Where there is charity and love	TiS.434 AHB/CS.591