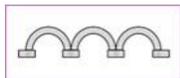


Meon Bridge Benefice

Corhampton & Meonstoke, Droxford, Exton with Preshaw



**The Eucharist for
The Feast of Christ the King
with
Spiritual Communion
(Order One – Eucharistic Prayer B)
In Time of Pandemic**



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our service of the Eucharist with Spiritual Communion – our small sacrifice of thanksgiving

on this, the last Sunday in the Church's year – the Feast day of Christ the King from the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Exton, in the Meon Valley in Hampshire.

The Feast of Christ the King celebrates the doctrine of the consubstantiality of Christ with the Father. The most effective defence against the destructive forces of the age is the recognition of the kingship of Christ; and, furthermore, a feast which is celebrated every year by everyone is perhaps the best way of deploying that defence.

First, we do; then we come to understand what it is that we are doing.

Each of us has been anointed with holy oil at baptism, as priest, prophet and king. The feast of Christ the King is thus a good moment to reflect on our kingship and on what "king" means and how to be one. Understanding the feast makes us understand our own call better.

The King of the Universe, our ensample, is simultaneously the ruler of all and the servant of all. He rules in triumph; and he rules from the Cross.

In prayer, we may meditate on over whom or what we are each, personally, 'king' and then ask for the grace to know whom I am called to serve and how.

Source: Liturgy of the Hours 2020 (UK & Ireland, Ordinary Time) (Divine Office UK/Ireland Book 11). Universalis Publishing Limited.

Spiritual Communion

The Prayer Book instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we may be unable receive the sacrament physically in ourselves at this time. For as the benefit is great, if with a true penitent heart and lively faith we receive that holy Sacrament; (for then we spiritually eat the flesh of Christ, and drink his blood; then we dwell in Christ, and Christ in us; we are one with Christ, and Christ with us;) From the Third Exhortation in the BCP. Making a Spiritual Communion is especially fitting when we cannot receive the sacrament at the great feasts of the Church, and it fulfils the duty of receiving Holy Communion 'regularly, and especially at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whit Sunday.' (Canon B 15 of the Church of England).

A PRAYER FOR OUR TIMES,

Loving Father God,
be with us in our distress;
be with our families, friends, and neighbours,
our country and our world.
Give health to the sick,
hope to the fearful,
and comfort to mourners.
Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,
insight to our Government,
and patience to us all.
Overcome disease with the power of your new life,
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

INTROIT HYMN: O praise ye the Lord!

- 1 O praise ye the Lord! praise Him in the height;
Rejoice in His Word, ye angels of light;
Ye heavens, adore Him by Whom ye were made,
And worship before Him in brightness arrayed.
- 2 O praise ye the Lord! Praise Him upon earth,
In tuneful accord, ye sons of new birth;
Praise Him Who hath brought you His grace from above,
Praise Him Who hath taught you to sing of His love.
- 3 O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;
Each jubilant chord re-echo around;
Loud organs, His glory forth tell in deep tone,
And sweet harp, the story of what He hath done.
- 4 O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
To Him be outpoured all ages along!
For love in creation, for Heaven restored,
For grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

Meter: 10 10 11 11

O praise ye the Lord!

Henry Williams Baker (1821 – 1877)

LAUDATE DOMINUM (Parry)

Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848 – 1918)

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

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Prophecy of Ezekiel

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will

seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24

PSALM

- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- 2 **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms.**
- 3 For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
- 4 **In his hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains are his also.**
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- 6 **Come, let us worship and bow down
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**
- 7 For he is our God;

Psalm 95.1-7a

SECOND READING

A Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1.15-23

At the end of each reading, the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN The King of Love my Shepherd is

1. The King of love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;

I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever.

2. Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love He sought me,
And on His shoulder gently laid,
And home rejoicing brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.
5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction grace bestoweth;
And O what transport of delight
From Thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within Thy house forever.

Meter: 87 87

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DOMINUS REGIT ME
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GOSPEL READING

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.

All Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew*. (+)

All (+) Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to

drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

Matthew 25.31-46

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

For the last Sunday of the Church's year, we have of a vivid parable that tells us what will happen when the Son of Man comes in glory. Christ life King will separate the sheep from the goats. He will welcome the sheep on his right hand and offer them the kingdom that has been prepared for them since the creation of the world. This in itself is a wonderful thought: There is a place that has been reserved for you from the beginning. There is a place that is just yours, it has your name on it and no one else can take it.

We need to be aware, however, that there is judgement and that judgement is based on love. If we have expressed love in faith, we need have no fear:

Listen to what the King says:

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

When people ask ‘When was this?’, the reply is: ‘Just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, who are members of my family, you did not do it to me’.

Time and again we learn that the way we deal with others is the way we deal with God. If we do not listen to others, we are not likely to listen to God. If we are mean towards others, we have a mean relationship with God. If we only like the people who will obey us, we will seek a puppet God, who we erroneously think is there to do our bidding. Our faith is not one that is *out of this world*; our faith is reflected in our relationships with each other as well as with God. As God is in each person, though sometimes so hidden it is hard to find, we have to treat everyone with reverence and respect. There is no one single person who does not have God hidden within, even though they may live in total disobedience to God. The tramp and the criminal have no less of God in them than the Archbishop or a Saint.

Amen

OFFERTORY HYMN Crown Him with Many Crowns

1. Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne,
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
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
Fruit of the mystic Rose,
As of the 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 his wondering 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,
And all be prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end,
And round His piercèd 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 has died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity.

Meter: DSM

Crown Him with Many Crowns

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DIADEMATAR

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The president receives communion on behalf of all and then we make an Act of Spiritual Reception.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL RECEPTION

The people who are unable to remain for the Eucharist may say:

In union, dear Father, with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving.

Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns

1. The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor's brow.
2. The highest place that heaven affords
Is His, is His by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And heaven's eternal Light;
3. The Joy of all who dwell above,
The Joy of all below
To whom He manifests His love
And grants His name to know.
4. To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is given;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heaven.
5. They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The mystery of His love.
6. The cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him:
His people's hope, His people's wealth,
Their everlasting theme.

Meter: CM

The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns

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SAINT MAGNUS

Jeremiah Clarke (1670 – 1707)

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Silence is kept.

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.

The Post Communion Prayer is followed by:

All **Almighty God,**
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN Rejoice, the Lord is King!

- 1 Rejoice, the Lord is King! your Lord and King adore;
mortals give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
- 2 Jesus, the saviour, reigns, the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains he took his seat above;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
- 3 His kingdom cannot fail, he rules both earth and heaven,
the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given;
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!
- 4 He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Meter: 66 66 and Refrain

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
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Music

Opening Voluntary

NARENZA

from Johannes Leisentritt's

"Catholicum Hymnologium Germanicum" 1584.

The arranger is William Henry Havergal (1793 – 1870).

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Hymns

O praise ye the Lord!

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Closing Voluntary

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