

Home Prayers

November 22, 2020 • Reign of Christ

(adapted from the *Book of Alternative Services*, pages 685-679)

*If you are praying with one or more others, the service can be divided between the plain and bold text.
If you are praying by yourself, you can say all of the prayers aloud or silently.*

The Preparation

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

A hymn may be sung. This one can go to the tune Duke Street.

1. Jesus shall reign where e'er the sun
doth its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.
3. Blessings abound where e'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
4. Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

The collect of the day may be said.

Christ our King,
reigning from a cross as your throne:
you are one with the hungry, the naked, and the scorned;
may our faith be proved not in dogma and piety
but in serving you in the least, the last and the lost,
through Jesus Christ, the stranger's Lord.
Amen.

Reading

Matthew 25:31-46 is the Gospel appointed for the Reign of Christ:

Jesus said, '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.'

Following the reading you may contemplate in silence, or discuss the scripture passage with others, or read a related work of literature.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
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 the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions

Prayers may be offered for the church, those in authority, the world, those in need, and the departed.

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom.

Jesus Christ, true ruler of the created world, we pray for the peoples of the world: for victims of war, brutality and oppression; for victims of unjust economic and political systems; for the hungry, the homeless, and the refugee. We give thanks for leaders who serve the common good, and for all who work for an increase of justice and peace. Make us a people whose hearts are ruled by your mercy and compassion,

and in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Jesus Christ, true shepherd to all your sheep, we pray for your church: for courage in places of persecution or indifference; for renewed zeal in places of apathy or exhaustion; for unity in places of discord or division. We give you thanks and pray for all who are shepherds to your people, for bishops, priests, deacons, lay readers, and all who minister in your name. Make us a people whose hearts are ruled by your forgiveness and grace,

and in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Jesus Christ, true companion to all who seek you, we pray for those to whom our lives are bound: for our families, our friends, and all whom we love; for our church communities; for those with whom we work and play. We give you thanks for all whose love or care or daily work enriches our lives. Make us a people whose hearts are ruled by your reconciliation and love,

and in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Jesus Christ, comforter of all who suffer, we pray for all in special need: those lost in grief or loneliness or hopelessness; those imprisoned by pain or guilt or despair; those sick in heart or mind or spirit. We give you thanks for all who bring healing and hope to those in need. Make us a people whose hearts are ruled by your compassion and hope,

and in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Jesus Christ, true ruler of earth and heaven, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful servants of every age. Help us follow in the footsteps of your saints, that we, like them, may be gathered into your eternal presence, a people after your own heart, the sheep of your own fold,

and in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions can be offered.

This concluding prayer can then be said:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forward with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Conclusion

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.