



THE REIGN OF CHRIST

26 November 2017

Sentence O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.

Psalm 100.1

Collect

God of power and love,
who raised your Son Jesus from death to life,
resplendent in glory to rule over all creation:
free the world to rejoice in his peace,
to glory in his justice, and to live in his love.
Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

God does not mince words in castigating the leading citizens who have failed to care for God's people. Since Israel's human shepherds have failed in their responsibilities, God who is merciful will care for the people himself!

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As 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. I 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 water-courses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I 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.

Ezekiel 34.11-16

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Psalm 100

Older Anglicans will recognise this psalm from its use in the Book of Common Prayer from the BCP Morning Prayer.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Paul is assuring the church in Ephesus that Jesus has been raised by God to a place in which all life culminates in his.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I 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, so 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God 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, far 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 1.15-23

Reader May your word live in us

All And bear much fruit to your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

All Alleluia! Alleluia!

Cantor Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

All Alleluia!

Reader The Lord be with you

ALL And also with you

Reader A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

ALL Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Care for the poor and the most vulnerable is an insistent refrain in the scriptures. We are not to ask are they deserving, but to seek Christ in them and respond. Such kindness is both human decency and Christian charity at work. Every time we are compassionate and generous, we unite ourselves with Christ in his love.

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

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord
ALL Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer for the Week: Stir up, we pray you, 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.**

Bible Readings next week 1st Sunday of Advent Year B
Isaiah 64.1-9 Ps 80.1-7;17-19 I Cor. 1.1-9 Mark 13.24-37

Pray for the Faithful Departed *We remember before God,*
Emily Whitbourne, Patricia Crowl, Marjorie Hagerty, Helen Trumble,
Marjorie Alison Pope, Frederick Fuller, Charles Atkins, Jessie Southcott,
Christopher Boniface *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

Commemorations of the week:

December 4 Nicholas Ferrar (1592-1637). Born in London, he had a brilliant academic career and later in business and politics. In 1625, he abandoned these and, with others, set up a community at a village, Little Gidding, with a strict life of prayer and good works. He was denounced by the Puritans and his works burnt.

December 6 Nicholas of Myra (Asia Minor). Bishop and teacher. Little is known of him. He is the Patron Saint of sailors (and churches in his name were built on landmarks), of children (‘Santa Claus is an American corruption of ‘Saint Nicholas’), and of Russia.

December 7 Ambrose of Milan (c.339-397). One of the greatest of the early bishops. Famous as a preacher and influential in the conversion of St. Augustine of Hippo. Champion of orthodoxy and the independence of the church from the civil power. Stimulated the development of church music (the 'Ambrosian Chant' is named after him).

December 8 The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, one of the celebrations of Mary, the mother of the Lord, retained by the English reformers.

December 8 Richard Baxter (1615-1691). Puritan divine and spiritual writer. He wrote over 200 works.

