

**St Mary Magdalene with St Martin**  
**23rd November 2025 Morning Prayer**  
**Christ the King - The Sunday next before Advent**

**Before the service**

**Song: Lift up your heads to the coming King**

Lift up your heads to the coming King  
Bow before Him and adore Him,  
sing to his Majesty,  
let your praises be  
pure and holy, giving glory  
to the King of kings.



## Greeting

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Give us the joy of your saving help  
**and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.**

*The minister may say:*

We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy Word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

## Song: We have come into this place

1

We have come into this place  
and gathered in his name  
to worship him  
We have come into this place  
and gathered in his name  
to worship him  
We have come into this place  
and gathered in his name  
to worship Christ the Lord  
Worship him, Christ the Lord

2

So forget about yourself  
and concentrate on him  
and worship him  
So forget about yourself  
and concentrate on him  
and worship him  
So forget about yourself  
and concentrate on him  
and worship Christ the Lord  
Worship him, Christ the Lord

3

He is all my righteousness,  
I stand complete in him  
and worship him  
He is all my righteousness,  
I stand complete in him  
and worship him  
He is all my righteousness,  
I stand complete in him  
and worship Christ the Lord  
Worship him, Christ the Lord.

4

Let us lift up holy hands  
and magnify his name  
and worship him  
Let us lift up holy hands  
and magnify his name  
and worship him  
Let us lift up holy hands  
and magnify his name  
and worship Christ the Lord  
Worship him, Christ the Lord.

## **Confession**

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly, love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

## **Forgiveness**

May the Father of all mercies

cleanse *us* from *our* sins,

and restore *us* in his image

to the praise and glory of his name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Thanksgiving**

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you most  
humble and hearty thanks for all your  
goodness and loving kindness to us and all  
humankind.**

**We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love in  
the redemption of the world by our Lord  
Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and the  
hope of glory.**

**Give us, we pray, such a sense of all your  
mercies that our hearts may be sincerely  
thankful, so that we may show forth your  
praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
and by walking before you in holiness and  
righteousness all our days; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the  
Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever  
and ever.**

**Amen.**

## Song: King of kings, Majesty

King of kings, Majesty,  
God of Heaven living in me,  
gentle Saviour, closest friend,  
strong deliverer, beginning and end,  
all within me falls at your throne.

Your majesty, I can but bow,  
I lay my all before you now.  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve your majesty.

Earth and Heaven worship you,  
love eternal, faithful and true,  
who bought the nations, ransomed souls,  
brought this sinner near to your throne;  
all within me cries out in praise.

Your majesty, I can but bow,  
I lay my all before you now.  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve your majesty.

Your majesty, I can but bow,  
I lay my all before you now.  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve your majesty.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Scripture Readings

#### Colossians 1:11-20

<sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. <sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup> for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Luke 23:33-43

<sup>33</sup> When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup> Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. <sup>35</sup> And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, <sup>37</sup> and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup> There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?” <sup>41</sup> And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon



## **Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe 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 to the dead. On the  
third day he rose again; he ascended into  
heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the  
Father, and 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 the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **Intercessions**

## Collect for The Sunday next before Advent

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.

## Lord's Prayer

*As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be  
your name, your kingdom come, your  
will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory are yours now and for ever.  
Amen.

## Notices

## Song: All I once held dear

All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
all this world reveres, and wars to own,  
all I once thought gain I have counted loss;  
spent and worthless now, compared to this.

*Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,  
there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, you're the best,  
you're my joy, my righteousness,  
and I love you, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more,  
to be found in you and known as yours.  
To possess by faith  
what I could not earn,  
all-surpassing gift of righteousness.

Oh, to know the power of your risen life,  
and to know you in your sufferings.  
To become like you  
in your death, my Lord,  
so with you to live and never die.



## **THE CONCLUSION**

*The formal ending may be used.*

### **The Peace**

May the peace of God, which passes all  
understanding, keep our hearts and minds  
in Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**