

**Berrow with Pendock, Eldersfield, Birtsmorton and Hollybush**



**Welcome-do have a candle, glass of juice/wine and cracker/piece of bread ready**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you**

## **HYMN**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF PENITENCE AND ABSOLUTION**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins, in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,**

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in thought and word and deed,  
 through negligence, through weakness,  
 through our own deliberate fault.  
**We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins.**  
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us**  
**all that is past;**  
**and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of**  
**your name.**  
**Amen.**

Almighty God,  
 who in Jesus Christ has given us  
 a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
 forgive you your sins,  
 open your eyes to God's truth,  
 strengthen you to do God's will  
 and give you the joy of his kingdom,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **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**

**READING : Ezekiel 11-16, 20-24.**  
**Matthew 25:31 to end.**

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

***(Please read Ephesians 1. 15 to end at home)***

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## REFLECTION:

Today is 'Stir up' Sunday, with next Sunday being the start of Advent. Not just about Christmas puddings, but that God will stir up our wills to do our good works that he has planned for us. On Christ the King Sunday we have an opportunity to assess where we have been, what has been achieved, and perhaps most importantly, where we are going with our journey of faith.

We learn about the Shepherd King in Ezekiel, chapter 34. God says, "I will be the shepherd of my sheep... I will seek the lost. I will bring back those who have strayed. I will bind up the crippled. I will strengthen the weak."

Our King is like a shepherd who has come to love us and to lead us. We are called to follow him wherever he goes, wherever the path may lead. He came into our world "to lead us by the still waters, to restore our souls, to lead us in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake (Psalm 23)."

As his disciples, we are called to sacrifice, to pay a cost in order to follow the King. We have been saved and our sins are forgiven by Jesus! We look to the future with hope and promise.

Jesus said: "Love one another as I have loved you (John 13:34)." In Matthew 25 we find the passage where the Shepherd King says to the sheep at his right hand, "Come, O blessed of my father, enter into the kingdom that has been prepared for you from the foundation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to me. And the righteous asked the Lord, 'When did we see you hungry or thirsty or sick or in prison?' And he answered, 'As you have done it to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you have done it to me' (Matthew 25:34-40)." God needs us to be his hands, his voice, his heart.

Matthew records Jesus's judgement of all people, separating the sheep from the goats. Although sheep get all the praise. Goats are not worse animals than sheep. It's just that sheep tolerate cold better than goats, so shepherds put goats in a protected spot while the sheep

continued to forage.

What is the point that Jesus is making?

Matthew appears to record these words which show that Jesus was serious about expecting lives to be changed by his teaching. The way in which we treat others has importance to God, he takes note and there is judgement. To be a part of the Kingdom of God, you ensure success by treating your neighbour the way that you would wish to be treated.

We are faced by many opportunities to help the needy. To be in contact, to care are such things all are within reach of everybody. In these acts of kindness, Jesus is stressing the need for us to take seriously his teaching on the importance of right behaviour now. By doing so, it demonstrates the presence of God within us and by living the standards of the kingdom, we are one of Christ's sheep.

The faithful will see everyone as a brother or sister in Christ and in that relationship, we are part of his kingdom now. As I reflected last week, God's calls us to take the resources he has given us and use them for the good of all, and to be considerate of the plight of the weak and powerless.

In the book of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul has experienced and seen the riches of God's grace, of his mercy, and God's generosity. He uses words like lavish, abundant, immeasurable when thinking about God's world.

The word, grace or gift, is freely given. God's grace is all around you and inside you and beneath life itself. Grace is not earned, deserved but freely and excessively given. Paul knows and has seen that God knows the numbers of hairs on our heads, that he has fully forgiven us, he knows our name, and that he has plans for our lives here on this earth and for all eternity.

St Paul prays for the Ephesians to experience such a relationship with God: " I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe."

Christ is our King, who has a kingship in which he has been refined like gold in the fire. Christ has reached his authority through sticking to God no matter what, through trusting God and believing in God and accepting suffering in order to remain at one with God. And through that terrible suffering, although Jesus died on the cross, He was exalted, raised, and seated at the right hand of God in God's kingdom where he is to this day, working ceaselessly on our behalf, praying for us, helping us, guiding us.

We can all experience something of the kingship of Jesus, merely by opening our hearts and lives to him, welcoming his guidance and listening for his promptings and following them. When we really begin to do that, life in God's Kingdom here on earth has real meaning. Although our suffering may be awful and agonising, it can be endured. We can even grow through it, if we allow God to help us.

What are we supposed to be doing right now?

We need strength for the journey. A nudge--or a jolt from a spiritual cattle prod--that will help you struggle up the path that awaits you this week.

What does Jesus want me to do?

Life in God's Kingdom is not about what you have or who you are, it's about what you do. It's not about what the world values, but what God values.

If you love God, if your values are God-values instead of the world's values, if Christ actually is King, then you will love as God loves, give as God gives, forgive as God forgives. If your values are God-values, you can't help but live as Christ taught.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Please ask for any additional prayers*

**Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen**

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## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us.

**Our Father,  
which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done ;  
in 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.**

## THE PEACE

We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
We belong to him through faith,  
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**and also with you.**

## THE 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,**

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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.**

## **THE THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation.  
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.  
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.  
And so we gladly thank you,  
With saints and angels praising you, and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
And as we obey his command,  
Send your Holy Spirit  
That broken bread and wine outpoured  
May be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

Here is the table set for a special meal.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took a cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

Drink this all of you;

This is my blood of the new covenant,

Which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice

Made once upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection

Until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather into your loving arms with St Faith, St John the Baptist, St Thomas of Canterbury with St Peter and St Paul and all the Saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

All honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,

For ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God**

**have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,**

**have mercy on us.**

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**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast**

**(consume)**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.**

**We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this physical and  
spiritual sacrament,  
united us with Christ and given us a foretaste of the heavenly  
banquet prepared for all peoples.  
Amen.**

## **HYMN**

### **THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

May the father from whom every family  
in earth and heaven receives its name  
strengthen you with his Spirit  
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**