**A Service of the Word for Christ the King**

****

**Welcome and Opening Responses**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
You have given us a share in the inheritance **of the saints in light.**

Open our eyes to behold your glory

and free our tongues to join their song:

Great and wonderful are your deeds, Lord God almighty;
just and true are your ways, King of the ages.
To you be praise and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

**Prayers of Penitence**

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

Mark 1.14

**O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory:**
**holy is your name, Lord God almighty.**
**In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away,**
**and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,**
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Absolution**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins,
and restore usin his image to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**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.

**Psalm 95.1-7a**

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;

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: **As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

**Reading Gospel**

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

 Glory to you, O Lord.

*At the end the reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

 Praise to you, O Christ.

**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.**

**Reflection**

**The Creed**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

 Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

 cf Philippians 2.6-11

**Prayers of Intercession**

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

And at the end

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

In confidence let us pray for the coming of the kingdom among us.

 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.

**Final Prayer and Blessing**

**God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen.**

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Copyright acknowledgement (where not already indicated above):

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000