

Northampton Diocese Liturgy Commission  
**PRIVATE PRAYER in the Year of the Word**  
**Thirty Fourth Sunday of the Year – Year A**  
**Solemnity of CHRIST the KING**  
**Day of Prayer for Young People**  
**22 November 2020**

*As we come to pray in church we can unite ourselves with the whole Church of God by reflecting and praying the scriptures that will be prayed and proclaimed where Mass is celebrated across the world. Take time after each scripture to think and reflect what it means for you today  
The opening and thanksgiving psalms are those for the entry and communion processions of the Mass.*

**A Psalm to begin our prayer** *Rev 5, Psalm 72*  
*How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour.  
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.*

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement.

May the mountains bring forth peace for the people,  
and the hills justice.

May he defend the poor of the people  
and save the children of the needy

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds.  
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate all nations serve him

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

**Take a moment to ask God's forgiveness and strength**

**Prayer of the Sunday** *(Collect)*  
Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise

**The WORD of GOD**

**First Reading** Ezek. 34:11ff. *I will judge between sheep and sheep.*  
The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest - it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

**Responsorial Psalm** *Psalm 22*  
*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.  
He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

**Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 15:20-26.28 *He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.*  
Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

**Gospel** - Matthew [25:31ff]

*He will take his seat on his throne of glory*  
Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

**Pray for**

- the Church and her work for the poor and needy
- the World, that those in power may use it for the good of all
- our own Parish and all in need, that we may help them
- all who have died, especially family members who have died
- for your own intentions

**A prayer for the pandemic**

Merciful God, come to the help of your people. Be our shelter in this time of peril and strengthen the bonds of our community. Bring healing to all who suffer the ravages of disease and assist those whose skill and art can put an end to this affliction.

**Thanksgiving Psalm**

*Psalm 28*

*The Lord sits as King for ever.  
The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court.

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour.

The God of glory thunders.  
In his temple they all cry "Glory!"  
The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
the Lord sits as king forever.

**Acknowledgements**

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