

Christ the King

Agape Service

Introduction & Greeting

The Rector Welcome and introduction

Officiant 1 The Psalmist says, 'As the deer longs for the water brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God.' (Psalm 42: 1)

Welcome to this agape meal, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We gather to celebrate God's love revealed for our world by our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

All **We come to share our food, our lives and God's grace.**

Officiant 1 O Lord, open our lips.

All **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Prayers of Penitence

Officiant 2 Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.

Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Officiant 2 Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.

Lord, have mercy

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant 2 Lord Jesus, you forgive our sins.

Christ, have mercy

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Officiant 2 Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.

Lord, have mercy

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant 2 Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Collect

Officiant 1 God the Father,

All **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.**

Ministry of the Word

Ezekiel 34: 11-16

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 watercourses, 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.

Psalm 95: 1-7

Officiant I O come, let us sing to the Lord; ♦
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

All **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving ♦
and be glad in him with psalms.**

Officiant I For the Lord is a great God ♦
and a great king above all gods.

All **In his hand are the depths of the earth ♦
and the heights of the mountains are his also.**

Officiant I The sea is his, for he made it, ♦
and his hands have moulded the dry land.

All **Come, let us worship and bow down ♦
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

Officiant I For he is our God;
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Matthew 25: 31-46

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.'

Sermon

A short address by the Revd Alycia Timmis, Curate at St Mary's & Chaplain to Warwick School

Intercession

Officiant 1 In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

This response is used:

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

At the end:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

For the sake of your Son

our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

AGAPE

Officiant 2 In this Agape for the Second Sunday before Advent we celebrate that Jesus calls us to share our God-given talents as we proclaim the good news of God's kingdom. Therefore we acknowledge these symbols to remind us of Christ's promises to us:

A candle, to remind us of Jesus' words, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life". (John 8: 12)

Some food we have found stirring to remind us of Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel: "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." (Matthew 25: 35-36).

A cup of wine or grape juice to remind us Jesus' proclaimed, "I am the true vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit". (John 15: 5)

Living and Risen Christ, we welcome your presence with us. May the food, drink and companionship we share nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. And may our spirits be refreshed. As we live in the light of your presence with us now, and at all times and places. Amen.

Sharing of Food and Drink

A portion of the food is eaten, followed by the sharing of the cup. If there are others present in your 'bubble' they can be passed from person to person, during which a cantor will sing *Christus vincit* (plainsong).

CHRISTUS VINCIT, CHRISTUS REGNAT, CHRISTUS IMPERAT. EXAUDI, CHRISTE. ECCLESIAE SANCTAE DEI, SALUS PERPETUA! REDEMPTOR MUNDI. TU ILLAM ADJUVA. SANCTA MARIA. TU ILLAM ADJUVA. SANCTE JOSEPH. TU ILLAM ADJUVA. SANCTE MICHAEL. TU ILLAM ADJUVA. REX REGUM. REX NOSTER. SPES NOSTRA, GLORIA NOSTRA.

TEMPORA BONA VENIANT. TEMPORA BONA VENIANT REDEMPPTIS SANGUINE CHRISTI! FELICITER! FELICITER! FELICITER! PAX CHRISTI VENIAT! REGNUM CHRISTI VENIAT! DEO GRATIAS. AMEN.

CHRIST CONQUERS! CHRIST REIGNS! CHRIST COMMANDS! HEAR, O CHRIST. OF THE CHURCH HOLY OF GOD SALVATION PERPETUAL. REDEEMER OF THE WORLD, THOU GIVE HER ASSISTANCE. HOLY MARY, DO THOU GIVE HER ASSISTANCE. HOLY JOSEPH, DO THOU GIVE HER ASSISTANCE. HOLY MICHAEL, DO THOU HER ASSIST.
CHRIST CONQUERS! KING OF KINGS! KING OF US! HOPE OF US!

MAY TIMES THAT ARE GOOD COME! MAY TIMES THAT ARE GOOD COME TO THOSE REDEEMED IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST! MAY ALL GO WELL! MAY THE PEACE OF CHRIST COME. MAY THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST COME. TO GOD BE THANKS! AMEN.

Conclusion

Officiant I As our Saviour has taught his followers, so we pray

All **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.**

Hymn

*We now sing the hymn 'Let all the world in every corner sing'
(Words: George Herbert; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)).*

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King.
The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly:
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King.**

**Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King.
The church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out:
But above all the heart
Must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King.**

Blessing

Officiant 2 Christ our King
make you faithful and strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Officiant 2 Live in the peace of the coming light of Christ!

All **Thanks be to God!**

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