**Sunday before Advent. Christ the King**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**and also with you.**

One thing I have asked of the Lord, this is what I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;  
to behold the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.

*Call:* Who is it that you seek?  
*Response*: **We seek the Lord our God.**  
*Call*: Do you seek Him with all your heart?  
*Response*: **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**  
*Call*: Do you seek Him with all your soul?  
*Response*: **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**  
*Call*: Do you seek Him with all your mind?  
*Response*: **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**  
*Call*: Do you seek Him with all your strength?  
*Response*: **Amen. Christ, have mercy.**

Opening Prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, who has put eternity into our hearts,

And through your Son, Jesus Christ, opened up to us the doors of heaven:

Lift up our eyes that we may behold you and our hearts that we may receive you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: Jesus is King

Jesus is King and I will extol Him

Give Him the glory and honour His name;

He reigns on high, enthroned in the heavens –

Word of the Father, exalted for us.

We have a hope that is steadfast and certain,

Gone through the curtain and touching the throne;

We have a priest, who is there interceding,

Pouring His grace on our lives day by day.

We come to Him, our Priest and Apostle,

Clothed in His glory and bearing His name,

Laying our lives with gladness before Him –

Filled with His Spirit we worship the King:

‘O Holy One, our hearts do adore You;

thrilled with Your goodness we give You our praise!’

Angels in light with worship surround him,

Jesus our Saviour, for ever the same.

*A moment of silence*

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**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.**

May the Father forgive us

By the death of his Son

And strengthen us to live

in the power of the Spirit all our days. **Amen.**

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:

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Talk 1:

Hymn: Speak O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food of your holy word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us  
All Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience,  
Holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise  
Cause our eyes to see,  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of power that can never fail;  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we’ll stand on Your promises;  
And by faith we’ll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, ’til your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

Talk 2:

Prayers:  
Lord Jesus, loving Saviour, faithful Shepherd

Hear the prayer of my heart as I turn to you now.

Open my mind that I may know you and your ways

Open my ears that I may hear your call

Open my heart that I may receive the riches of your grace

And anoint me with your Spirit of power

That I may follow you and reflect the light of your glory

All my days of my life, until at last I see you face to face. **Amen.**

Glorious Lord, King of all creation

We pray for our world, divided and torn apart by hatred and conflict,

For creation, polluted and endangered by greed and ignorance

For relationships, corrupted and scarred by human frailty and sin

Forgive our transgressions and reign in our lives

Heal our divisions; turn our hearts to goodness and purity

Grant us a spirit of tolerance, forgiveness and love

Fill our lives with hope and joy

And so enfold the world in your peace.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, who spent your early years as a child in Nazareth

We lift before you our children and young people, our schools, colleges and universities

We pray for their education, their futures and their hopes and dreams.

In this time of uncertainty and anxiety

We ask that you would be a clear light to guide them

And a faithful shepherd to protect and comfort them.

Speak into their distress and lead them in the way of truth and the path of joy.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, you weep with us in our sorrows

And carry your precious children close to your heart.

We pray for the lonely, the homeless and oppressed…

For those who are discriminated against

because of disability, gender, colour or nationality…

for those who are trafficked, abused and whose voices go unheard…

Open our eyes to their need and our ears to their cry.

Move our hearts to respond with justice and love.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, God of love and gentle Saviour

We pray for all who are unwell, suffering in mind or in body…

And for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones.

In a moment of quiet we lift those we know to the Lord…

Be their light in darkness and their strength in weakness.

May your loving arms enfold them and your Holy Spirit sustain them

Through this time and for ever more.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.  
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.  
Christ under me; Christ over me;  
Christ beside me, on my left and my right.  
This day be within and without me,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.  
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;  
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.  
This day be within and without me,  
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.  
Christ as a light; Christ as a shield;  
Christ beside me, on my left and my right. **Amen.**

We draw our prayers to a close with the prayer our Lord taught 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.**

Closing Hymn: O Lord my God

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,

I see the stars; I hear the mighty thunder,

Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee*

*How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee*

*How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander

And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;

When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,

and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

*Chorus*

And when I think that God his Son not sparing,

Sent Him to die – I scarce can take it in,

That on the cross my burden gladly bearing,

He bled and died to take away my sin:

*Chorus*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation

And take me home – what joy shall fill my heart!

Then shall I bow in humble adoration,

And there proclaim, my God how great Thou art!

*Chorus*

Blessing:

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you, wherever He may send you.  
May He guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.  
May He bring you home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown you.  
May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our doors.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**