

Here's a text if you've only a minute

May the kingdom of God live in my heart
and come to our world. (Opening Prayer - adapted)

I will rescue my sheep from wherever
they have been scattered. (Ezekiel 34:12)

The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.
(Psalm 23:1)

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (Psalm 23: 9)

(God's kingdom) is a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.
[The Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer]

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 ...
(Matthew 25:34-35).



SAINT BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Feast of Christ
the King
Year A
20th November 2011



The Church's year ends acknowledging Jesus as —“Christ the King.”
As Christ, we owe him our worship. As King we owe him our service.

Opening Prayer [2nd version]

Let us pray that the kingdom of God may live
in our *hearts* and come to our world.

Father all powerful, God of love,
you have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from death to life,
resplendent in glory as King of Creation.
Open our hearts, *free* all the world to rejoice in his *peace*,
to glory in his *justice*, to live in his *love*.
Bring us all together in Jesus Christ your Son,
whose kingdom is with you and the Holy Spirit

= **God's kingdom is already PRESENT:**
if I accept that Christ is my Saviour through his life,
death & resurrection; his values & care for others, and his
miracles; and through his teaching, especially his parables.
= **God's kingdom is also still in the FUTURE:**
JC's teaching also points to its future completion through
his coming again at the last day when we will all come be-
fore our loving God.

Daily during this week I ask for the help of God's Spirit within
me to draw me into a glimpse of the wonderful depths of the
mysteries this prayer illustrates at the end of the Church's year.

Patiently, I may try to allow each phrase to open up before me
and reach into the depths of my heart.

What do I desire? What do I want to say to the Lord.....?
As always, with gratitude in my heart, I end my prayer slowly.

Part of the First Reading Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-16

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.



Today's gospel invites us to put into practice, as Jesus did, God's love for all those in need as shown in these two famous passages, *Slowly read the scripture. Let it sink into my heart, & then respond to the Lord.*



Psalm 23

R/. 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.

Part of The Gospel Matthew 25: 31-46

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 visit me.'

Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and gave you to drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothed you; sick or in prison and go to see you?'

And the King will answer, 'I tell you solemnly, **insofar as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.**'

. . . Insofar as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.'

Here is the culmination of Jesus' message to his disciples. He would have prayed Ezekiel and Ps. 23, sensed God's love for all people, and identified himself - his mission - with the vulnerable. If I care for them I am caring for Christ.

If I do this I will enter the Kingdom. If I don't

I could pray this gospel by imagining I am IN the scene.

If so, I read it very slowly - perhaps several times.

What do I allow to happen? Who does Jesus point to as the needy? I watch how do I feel ? and so on . . .

OR, having read the passage, I could (*as St. Ignatius suggests at one point in the 'Spiritual Exercises'*) place myself at the foot of the Cross.

I look up at Jesus who loves me so much and ask: Lord, what have I done for you in the needy? What am I doing now? What do I feel you are asking me to do? With trust, I give him time to tell me - and maybe the answer will come when I'm not praying, but about my everyday life! I end my prayer giving thanks.