

**St Columba and the Northern Saints, Corby**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
**21<sup>st</sup> November 2021**

PRE SERVICE WORSHIP

**S91** 379 *Majesty*

Majesty, worship His majesty,  
Unto Jesus be glory, honour and praise.  
Majesty, kingdom authority,  
Flow from His throne unto His own,  
His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus,  
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.  
Majesty, worship His majesty,  
Jesus who died, now glorified,  
King of all kings.

WELCOME

PRAYER OF APPROACH (BP 45)

Lord, you are king,  
and we tremble before you;  
you are enthroned  
in the presence of your people:  
let everyone praise  
your great and majestic name,  
**holy, holy, the Lord our God is holy!**  
Our mighty king,  
you love all that is good;  
you bring to us truth and justice,  
and forgive us when we fall short:  
we praise you our mighty king  
and worship before your throne:  
**holy, holy, the Lord our God is holy!**  
Our king, seated at the right hand of the Father,  
there you hear and answer your people  
when they pray to you;  
you speak to us, and give us laws to obey:  
our king, we praise you  
and come together to worship you:  
**holy, holy, the Lord our God is holy!**  
**Amen.**

HYMN            **S93** 32    At the name of Jesus

At the name of Jesus  
Every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess Him  
King of glory now;  
'Tis the Father's pleasure

We should call Him Lord,  
Who from the beginning  
Was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season,  
To receive a name  
From the lips of sinners  
Unto whom He came;  
Faithfully He bore it  
Spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious,  
When from death He passed.

Bore it up triumphant  
With its human light,  
Through all ranks of creatures  
To the central height,  
To the throne of Godhead,  
To the Father's breast,  
Filled it with the glory  
Of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone Him;  
There let Him subdue  
All that is not holy,  
All that is not true;  
Crown Him as your Captain  
In temptation's hour,  
Let His will enfold you  
In its light and power.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus  
Shall return again,  
With His Father's glory,  
With His angel-train;  
For all wreaths of empire  
Meet upon His brow,  
And our hearts confess Him  
King of glory now.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (mPFS 37 b,c,d)

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

**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.**

Almighty God,

who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive us our sins,  
open our eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen us to do God's will  
and give us the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

COLLECT for Christ the King

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.**

SONG        **S94**    120    From heaven You came

From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
Entered our world, Your glory veiled;  
Not to be served, but to serve,  
And give Your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow Him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,  
My heavy load He chose to bear;  
His heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not My will but Yours,' He said.  
(chorus)

Come see His hands and His feet,  
The scars that speak of sacrifice;  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered.  
(chorus)

So let us learn how to serve,  
And in our lives enthrone Him;  
Each other's needs to prefer,  
For it is Christ we're serving.  
(chorus)

THANKSGIVING (nPfW G65)

Father, we are in your Spirit and hear your voice:  
'I am the first and the last,  
who is, who was, and who is to come.'  
Before the worlds were made,  
Jesus Christ the living one was reigning with you and the Holy Spirit.  
Through Christ you created everything in heaven and earth,  
the whole universe created through him and for him.

Lord of glory  
**we worship and adore you.**

You sent him,  
the visible likeness of the invisible God,  
to reflect the brightness of your glory,  
to sustain the universe with his word of power,  
to achieve forgiveness for the sins of all.  
Lord of glory  
**we worship and adore you.**

And now he rules in heaven, mighty risen Lord,  
his hair as white as snow, his eyes like fire,  
his feet like polished brass, his hands full of stars,  
his face bright as the noonday sun,  
his voice like a roaring waterfall:  
'I am the living one!  
I was dead but now I am alive for ever and ever.'  
So, with angels and archangels,  
and all the company of heaven,  
we praise you for ever, *saying*:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

#### PSALM 93

- 1 The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel;  
the Lord has put on his glory  
and girded himself with strength.
- 2 **He has made the whole world so sure  
that it cannot be moved.**
- 3 Your throne has been established from of old;  
you are from everlasting.
- 4 **The floods have lifted up, O Lord,  
the floods have lifted up their voice;  
the floods lift up their pounding waves.**
- 5 Mightier than the thunder of many waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea,  
the Lord on high is mightier.
- 6 **Your testimonies are very sure;  
holiness adorns your house, O Lord, for ever.**

SONG            **S95**    289    Jesus is King **(T+6)**

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, forever the same.

READING John 18 v33-37

<sup>33</sup> Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

<sup>34</sup> 'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?'

<sup>35</sup> 'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?'

<sup>36</sup> Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'

<sup>37</sup> 'You are a king, then!' said Pilate.

Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

This is the word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON by Linda Coleman

This is the last Sunday of the Christian year –traditionally known as the feast of Christ The King

Next week is Advent. The start of a new Christian year and the countdown to Christmas. So it seems a bit odd that this week we are looking at the trial of Jesus before Pilate when the Jews have handed Him over to get the order to crucify Him. (That seems more like Easter than Christmastime)

Roman Governor Pilate faces King Jesus and this is a time for us all to decide where our allegiances in this world lie.

The drama of this passage in John lies in the clash and interplay of personalities.

Pontious Pilate was the character with the unenviable job of keeping the province of Judea in line and he was, according to history a ruthless overlord, by nature rigid and stubbornly harsh...of spiteful disposition and an exceedingly wrathful man... His career was marked by bribes, acts of violence, spiteful treatment, murders without trial and grievous brutality.

And yet today's bible reading portrays him as a weak and vacillating man, torn between his external fears and his internal doubts. He is also a cynic – 'So you are a King?' he asks Jesus sarcastically, as he threatens him from his position of power

It is a dialogue that is masterfully told by John, as it is portrayed as an encounter between the leading local power-merchant of the government, on the one hand, and the apparently powerless figure of Jesus on the other.

And yet as the story progresses, we realize that it is Jesus who is really in control, whereas Pilate seems to be quite powerless.

When a person faces Jesus it is not Jesus on trial, it is the person.

Pilate wants to release Jesus but can't. His job is to administer justice but he is too scared to do what he knows is right. And so he moves back and forth between Jesus and His accusers, eventually symbolically washing his hands of the situation, in a desperate attempt to excuse himself from responsibility.

He tried to evade the responsibility of dealing with Jesus, but that is precisely what no one can do. No one can deal with Jesus for us. We must deal with Him ourselves.

There is no escape from a personal decision in regard to Jesus; we must ourselves decide what we will do with Him. Accept Him or reject Him.

Maybe that's why it's important we have this Sunday before Advent and Christmas begins. Because Jesus is The King. But is He your King? My King?

Pilate wanted to do the right thing but he didn't have the courage to defy the Jews and do it. He crucified Jesus in order to keep his job.

Pilate believed right but acted wrong. He believed Jesus in fact but he denied Him in act. Pilate wanted truth and justice but not at such a price. Judas sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver and Pilate sold Him for His job.

Jesus would have lost him his career, which he soon lost anyway, but compromise lost him eternity.

We learn from Pilate that nothing is more dangerous than to compromise with the truth, and especially Jesus who is the King of Truth.

What we see here is two Kings- two competing Kingdoms, two contrasting types of power.

On one hand we have Pilate –the worldly authority, whose power resides in the army that stands behind him. On the other hand we have Jesus, whose power comes from the fact that He tells the truth.

This is Jesus's response when Pilate asks Him if He is a King, 'For this reason I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.

Jesus speaks with utter directness to us of His Kingdom. He says it is not of this earth. But He makes it quite clear that He claims to be a King and that His Kingdom is not based on force but is a Kingdom in the hearts of people.

V36 'My Kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my Kingdom is from another place.

What does He mean another place?

There is a difference between the Kingship of Jesus and the Kingship of Pilate.

One is a worldly rule, imposed by the occupying army and the other is heavenly authority, where people come and put themselves under the rule of King Jesus because they recognise that He speaks the truth.

This is what Jesus means when He says 'My Kingdom is not of this world. He's not saying that His Kingdom is located on another planet. He's saying that His Kingdom is different from the kingdoms of this world. It is not of this world because it is not based on worldly power.

When Pilate's army and guns were gone so was his kingdom but the Kingdom of Jesus lasts forever.

Jesus tells us why He came into the world. He came to witness to the truth. He came to tell us the truth about God, the truth about ourselves and the truth about life.

The days of guessings and gropings and half truths are gone. He came to tell us the truth. That is one of the great reasons why we must all either accept or refuse Jesus. There is no halfway house about the truth. We either accept or reject. And Jesus is the truth.

A King has Majesty. What Pilate saw was pure Majesty. The Majesty of Jesus never shone more radiantly than in the hour when He was on trial before Pilate.

A King has a Kingdom. Jesus explains His Kingdom is not of this earth but is eternal and forever. Do we believe this?

The Lords prayer says Yours is the Kingdom The power and The glory forever and ever Amen. Do we believe this?

Each of us has to come face to face with Jesus and either accept or reject Him? Remember there is no halfway place. It's either Yes you are my King or No you are not my King.

I end with the words of this hymn which keeps going through my head when I think of this sermon.

You are The King of Glory You are the Prince of peace. You are the Lord of heaven and earth. You're the Son of Righteousness. Angels bow down before You. Worship and adore for You have the words of Eternal life . You are Jesus Christ The Lord.  
Amen

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH based on Ephesians 1.20-23

**We believe  
God raised from the dead  
our Lord Jesus Christ  
by his mighty power,  
and seated him at his right hand in heaven,  
far above all rule and authority,  
power and dominion,  
and every title that can be given,  
not only in the present age  
but also in the age to come.  
God placed all things under his feet  
and appointed him to be head over everything  
for the church, which is his body,  
the fullness of him who fills everything  
everywhere and always.  
Amen.**

SONG            **S96**    870    Jesus is the name we honour

Jesus is the name we honour;  
Jesus is the name we praise.  
Majestic Name above all other names,  
The highest heaven and earth proclaim  
That Jesus is our God.

*We will glorify,  
We will lift Him high,*

*We will give Him honour and praise.  
We will glorify,  
We will lift Him high,  
We will give Him honour and praise.*

Jesus is the name we worship;  
Jesus is the name we trust.  
He is the King above all other kings,  
Let all creation stand and sing  
That Jesus is our God.  
(chorus)

Jesus is the Father's splendour;  
Jesus is the Father's joy.  
He will return to reign in majesty,  
And every eye at last shall see  
That Jesus is our God.  
(chorus)

#### PRAYERS by Rosie Hughes

As the Church's year draws to a close, a new one begins next Sunday with the first Sunday in Advent, let us thank the Lord for all His care and compassion over the last year and we ask that His Spirit would remain with us for the coming year.

You are the King of Glory, Jesus Christ, the everlasting Son of the Father.

Christ our King, keep us calm and faithful in the face of trouble. At this busy time of year be close to those who are fearful of their ability to pay their bills, those who worry during Winter about heating and illness. Comfort those for whom this time of year is particularly hard because of loved ones who are no longer here. We pray especially today for Evelyn Britten, her family and friends after the sudden passing of Evelyn's husband last Monday. Give them all comfort in their grief and loss. We continue to pray for Ian and his family after his Father's recent passing and for Miriam as her sister Hilary continues her Cancer treatment. We ask that both Ian and Miriam would be upheld by your loving arms.

Christ our King, we give You our love and offer You our lives. Give strength and direction to all who seek to do your will. For all who strive for peace and the increasing spread of Your Gospel. We pray for the safe journey of the Samaritan's Purse boxes, that they would be received by the young people and would spread joy throughout your World.

Christ our King, may we know your presence in all our lives, that you are there at the centre of power and decision making and with the weak and humble too. We pray for all who seek justice and maintain order. We pray for all rulers, especially Elizabeth our Queen, and for all in authority.

Christ our King, rule in our hearts and our homes. May love, peace and forgiveness be among us. We pray for broken homes, for broken hearted people and those we seek to relieve those who suffer. We ask you to bless the various projects in Corby including the Food Bank and our project to house homeless people.

Christ our King, give hope to all who are suffering, let them be aware of your love. Keep in Your hand those who are losing their grip on life. Enfold all in Your love all who are fearful and anxious. We bring before you the troubled in body, mind or spirit.

Christ our King, for each one of us come and rule in our hearts, until Your kingdom rules on earth. In name of Jesus Christ the King we pray, **Amen**

#### LORD'S PRAYER



**Our Father in Heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

FINAL HYMN

**S97 77**

Crown Him with many crowns

Crown Him with many crowns,  
The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns  
All music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing  
Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King  
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life,  
Who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife  
For those He came to save:  
His glories now we sing,  
Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring  
And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of love;  
Behold His hands and side,  
Those wounds yet visible above  
In beauty glorified:  
No angel in the sky  
Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends His burning eye  
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of peace,  
Whose power a sceptre sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,  
And all be prayer and praise:  
His reign shall know no end,  
And round His piercèd feet  
Fair flowers of paradise extend  
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of years,  
The Potentate of time,

Creator of the rolling spheres,  
Ineffably sublime!  
All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
For Thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail  
Throughout eternity.

FINAL PRAYER (Traditional Collect for Sunday before Avent)

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.**

BLESSING (T&S P1 p591)

Christ our exalted King  
pour upon you his abundant gifts  
and bring you to 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.  
**Amen.**