

**Sunday 14 November 2021,
Christ the King**

Collect for this week:

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.

Readings for this week:

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

Each of this week's readings directs us towards the primacy of Jesus Christ as our Lord, not just as the head of the body we call the Church, but as the king of all creation. Daniel's vision offers a prophetic glimpse of God, the Creator sharing power with 'one like a human being' who later writers understand to be Christ. The psalm praises another king favoured by God, David, for his acknowledgement of the Almighty as the true and ultimate ruler. The Book of Revelation, our second reading, opens with poetic and visionary images as it seeks to describe the indescribable, the ultimate glory of the risen and ascended Christ. This stands in stark contrast with our Gospel passage, where Christ is bound, the servant king, prepared to give everything, even his life, to restore the relationship between God and creation. The truth that Jesus testifies to is found in his binding, for him kingship is about doing what is right, not what suits you best, it is about standing in solidarity with the weakest, not making capital out of their distress. One question for us is how we maintain that integrity in a world where power is seen as stepping-stone to personal success and the might of the individual is perceived to have priority over the needs of a community.

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.

Readings for next week:

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 93; Romans 10:12-18; Matthew 4:18-22
Andrew the Apostle