

Reflection on Christ the King

Today we celebrate a joyful moment as we baptise baby Reid during our service and welcome him into the family of God on this feast of Christ the King.

Our Gospel reading initially may not seem appropriate for this occasion of Baptism, but in it, we meet Christ the King showing us Kingship like no other. A reign grounded in mercy, forgiveness, inclusion and self-giving love.

Even in his suffering, Jesus speaks to the criminal with compassion in a promise overflowing with grace, "Today, you will be with me in paradise."

This is the King we follow: a King who reigns not by force, but by love; not by domination, but by drawing all people to Himself.

In baptism, we proclaim this same truth. Today, we will mark Reid with the sign of the cross – the sign of the King who offers forgiveness, love, welcome, and new life.

Baptism declares that the Kingdom of God is open to all, not because we deserve it, but because Christ desires each one of us to follow him. God claims us as His own, just as Jesus claimed the contrite thief in his final moments.

And as we welcome Reid into this church this morning, we are reminded of our calling to reflect the love, forgiveness and compassion of Christ the King in our daily lives. May we renew our commitment to live as citizens of Christ's kingdom here in St Thomas – a people who know Christ's mercy, trust in His promise and share God's love with all.

A blessed feast of Christ the King to you all!

Revd Sarah



NEXT SUNDAY 30.11.25 Advent Sunday

10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Isaiah 2: 1-5



NT Romans 13: 11-14

GOSPEL Matthew 24: 36-44

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St Thomas, Exeter

23rd November 2025

Christ the King

10.30am in the Church

Today

Sung Eucharist and Holy Baptism

Hymn Numbers

46 At the name of Jesus

Bless this water, bless this child.

335 Meekness and majesty

188 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Tuesday 25th November

4.15-6.15pm Advent window making.

7.30pm House Group at Helen's house.

Wednesday 26th November

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

7.30pm PCC Meeting in the hall

Thursday 27th November

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter at Jenny Tuckett's house

Friday 28th November

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

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; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Colossians 1: 11-20

I pray that God will make you strong with God's very own power. I pray that you are ready to handle everything that happens with patience, all the while giving thanks to God. God has allowed you to share the gifts he has given the saints. God has rescued you from the power of darkness and surrounded you with the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom all our sins are forgiven. When we see Jesus Christ, we are looking at the image of God

whom we cannot see. He is the very first, and in him, everything there is was created – the things we can see and the things we cannot see. He holds everything together. He is the head of the body called the church. He is the beginning of the new creation, and leads us to that new creation. In him all of God's being was pleased to dwell. Through him God holds all things in his loving arms, by making peace through Jesus' lifeblood on the cross.

Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place they call The Skull, they nailed Jesus to a wooden cross and left him there to die. There were criminals with him, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them because they don't know what they're doing." The soldiers drew straws to see who got to keep his clothes. Some people stood there to watch him die, but the leaders who put him there said, "If he's the Saviour, why can't he save himself? Some Messiah he is! "The soldiers mocked him, too, giving him sour wine to drink, saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself." There was a sign over his head that read, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals hanging there with him made fun of him. But the other defended Jesus, saying, "If I were you, I'd be quiet. You and I are getting what we deserve, but this man Jesus has done nothing wrong. Leave him alone." Then he said to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus said, "For sure, today you will be with me in paradise."

Post Communion

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**

Notices

This morning, we welcome the family and friends of **Reid Hewins** who will be baptised with us during our service.

The House Group Advent Course will be looking at the prophecies and passages of the Christmas stories. The next meeting is this Tuesday, 25th November and then weekly until the 16th December. See Ian for details.

Please pray for your PCC who will meet this Wednesday evening; that this church may continue to bear witness to Christ and play its part in enabling God's mission in our community.

Do come and join us to make your **Advent Windows** and continue (or begin!) the tradition in your street. Liz and Rev Sarah will host 2 Advent Window making sessions in the hall this week on Tuesday 25 November 4.15-6.15pm, and Sunday 30 November 1.30-3.30pm. The sessions are free and all materials are provided – everyone is welcome.

This is our last Sunday when we gather to worship in the church. From next **Sunday 30 November**, we will meet to worship in the (much warmer) hall every Sunday at 10.30am.

Advance Notice

Flyers are now available detailing our Christmas services. Please distribute them to family and friends.

Sunday 14th December 4pm & 6pm. Carol services with Grace Church.

Saturday 20th December 4pm. Blue Christmas service.

Sunday 21st December 3pm. Christingle Messier Church

Christmas Eve 4pm Family Crib Service.
11pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day 9.30am Family service.

