

23 November 2014

Christ the King

Collect of the Day

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.

First Reading

Ephesians 1.15-23

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and
your love towards all the saints, and for this
reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I
remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the
God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as
you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of
your heart enlightened, you may know what is
the hope to which he has called you, what are the
riches of his glorious inheritance among the
saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness
of his power for us who believe, according to the
working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power
to work in Christ when he raised him from the
dead and seated him at his right hand in the
heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority
and power and dominion, and above every name
that is named, not only in this age but also in the
age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his
feet and has made him the head over all things for
the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him
who fills all in all. (NRSV)

Gospel

Matthew 25.31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: ³¹“When the Son of Man
comes in his glory, and all the angels with him,
then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All
the nations will be gathered before him, and he
will separate people one from another as a
shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,

³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and
the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to
those at his right hand, “Come, you that are
blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom
prepared for you from the foundation of the
world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I
was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I
was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was
naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and
you took care of me, I was in prison and you
visited me.” ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him,
“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and
gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something
to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a
stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave
you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you
sick or in prison and visited you?” ⁴⁰And the king
will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did
it to one of the least of these who are members
of my family, you did it to me.” ⁴¹Then he will say
to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed,
depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for
the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you
gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me
nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did
not welcome me, naked and you did not give me
clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit
me.” ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, “Lord, when
was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a
stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did
not take care of you?” ⁴⁵Then he will answer
them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to
one of the least of these, you did not do it to
me.” ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal
punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’
(NRSV)

Post Communion Prayer

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.