

Hymn TIS 462 Now we come, our heavenly Father

Now we come, our heavenly Father one in glad community,
needing still your guiding mercies. stronger faith, more fervent plea:
all your blessing now confessing we would praise you trustingly.

Through the years your spirit guided those who blazed
the path we tread, in the glow of faith they laboured by the bread of life were fed;
while their yearning hearts were learning more of Christ, their living head.

Proudly high they held his gospel, far surpassing human creeds,
striving for his church united in the things for which he pleads;
torn no longer, but made stronger, one church meeting all our needs.

Like we, then, their torch with gladness pledging all to this high aim
your lost world reclaimed from darkness, yielded to your sovereign claim;
visions firing hearts inspiring, march we onward in your name.

Greeting

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you. **And also with you**

The Great Commandments

'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Lord have mercy on us and write your law on our hearts by your Holy Spirit

Sentence of Scripture

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Luke 19:37-38

Collect

Everlasting God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son to take our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross: in your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the gracious victory of his resurrection, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

2 Kings 9:6, 11-13

⁶ Jehu got up and went into the house. Then the prophet poured the oil on Jehu's head and declared, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anoint you king over the LORD's people Israel.

¹¹ When Jehu went out to his fellow officers, one of them asked him, "Is everything all right? Why did this maniac come to you?" "You know the man and the sort of things he says," Jehu replied. ¹² "That's not true!" they said. "Tell us." Jehu said, "Here is what he told me: 'This is what the LORD says: I anoint you king over Israel.'"

¹³ They quickly took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, "Jehu is king!"

Psalm 118.1-2, 19-29

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

² **Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."**

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ **This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.**

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

²² **The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;**

²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ **The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.**

²⁵ LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success!

²⁶ **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.**

²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

²⁸ **You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.**

²⁹ **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.**

Luke 19:28-40

²⁸ After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹ As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰ "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'"

³² Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³ As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

³⁴ They replied, "The Lord needs it."

³⁵ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶ As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

³⁷ When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

³⁸ "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

⁴⁰ "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Sermon - What sort of King do you want?

The Nicene Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead, he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the world and the church

Response: Christ Jesus, intercede for us, and in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Scripture Sentence

Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against any one, so that your Father who is in heaven may forgive your trespasses. Mark 11:25

Prayer of Approach

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Confession

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lord's table.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn - TIS 203 Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Lord of all creation,
Son of God, and Mary's son:

you will I cherish, you will I honour,
you are my soul's delight and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands
robed in the greenness and bloom of spring:

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
he makes the saddest heart to sing.

Fair are the flowers, fairer still the children
in all the freshness of youth arrayed;
yet is their beauty fading and fleeting;
Lord Jesus, yours will never fade.

Fair is the moonlight, fairer still the sunshine,
fair is the shimmering starry sky:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines clearer
than all the heavenly host on high.

Thanksgiving for Offering

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us. By his death on the cross, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Holy Communion

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread: so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

The gifts of God for the people of God

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.

The Lord's Supper is open to all who love the Lord. Grape juice is available.

Please come to the Communion Rail if you are able, observing appropriate social distancing.

After Communion

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience that we may serve you in the world and finally be brought to that table where all your saints feast with you for ever.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen

Notices

Hymn - TIS 351 Lift high the cross

Refrain: *Lift high the cross the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name*

**Come, people, follow where our captain trod
Our King victorious Christ the Son of God: *Refrain***

**All newborn servants of the Crucified
Bears on their brow the seal of him who died: *Refrain***

**From north and south, from east and west they raise
in growing unison their song of praise: *Refrain***

**O Lord once lifted on the glorious tree
draw all to you, let all nations see: *Refrain***

**From farthest regions let them homage bring,
and on the cross adore their Saviour King: *Refrain***

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Sermon - What kind of King do you want?

Luke's account of Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem asks an important question: what kind of king do we want reigning over us? I don't mean King Charles—but what kind of king are you ready to submit to? Specifically, is Jesus the sort of a king you want?

This passage starts by saying that Jesus was making his way to Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the centre of spiritual, religious and political power in Israel. It was from Jerusalem that the influential Jewish leaders had come ([Luke 5.17](#)) and where people expected the kingdom of God to be revealed ([Luke 19.11](#)). It is the City of the Great King, King David. This passage points to Jesus as the longed for successor to David, and so how Jesus will be received in Jerusalem, the city of the king, is really important.

But Jesus is not the kind of king that the crowds so desperately want. The crowds want a political king who will liberate the nation from Roman rule. Later, when Jesus enters Jerusalem a second time in secret, he points to the way that the kingdom of God will really come—not as a political and national idea, but by transforming people inwardly, changing their hearts in secret.

As Jesus approaches the city, Luke tells us that the disciples will find a colt that is tied up; they are to untie the colt. You will notice that the colt hasn't been ridden on before, because that is what is required for kings' mounts. This arrival on a colt did not mark the crowning of the king, but the recognition of the king who has already won his victory. Luke makes this explicit in the words of the crowd: 'Blessed is the coming King!' ([Luke 19.38](#)), and then he quotes [Ps 118.26](#).

Ps 118 is a psalm sung by pilgrims as they approached Jerusalem. It was originally associated with the coming of the king to Jerusalem, and the symbolic action of throwing cloaks on the road is associated with welcoming the conquering king, as Jehu is welcomed in [2 Kings 9.13](#).

The crowd is the whole multitude of Jesus's disciples, the pilgrim crowd that has been following him, and they are cheering Jesus. When the Pharisees call Jesus to silence the crowd, he tells the stones will cry, and this points to Jesus' kingship over nature., another element of his kingship.

So Luke tells us that Jesus is coming to the city of the king; he comes in the manner of a king; and he is acclaimed by the crowd of his disciples who hope the kingdom will now be announced as the king.

But what kind of king is Jesus? And what does his kingdom look like? Luke is also tells us this.

First, he said Jesus is a king who brings peace. The crowds acclaim: 'Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!' the same as we heard at Christmas from angels to shepherds in the field ([Luke 2.14](#)). Jesus is a king of Peace!

Secondly, Jesus is a king who merits praise and brings joy among people, but also the whole of the creation. If the people stop praising, then the very stones themselves will cry out ([Luke 19.40](#))! Jesus is a king to celebrate!

Thirdly, Jesus is a king who brings power. The disciples welcoming Jesus celebrate the 'works of power' they have seen him doing ([Luke 19.37](#)). He didn't use this power to control, manipulate or restrict. Instead, he brings down the proud 'in the thoughts of their hearts' ([Luke 1.51](#)) and to give '[freedom for the prisoners](#)', recovery of sight for the blind, and to set the oppressed free' ([Luke 4.18](#)).

This is a different kind of king to any you've met before. This is because the journey up to Jerusalem is not a journey to power and glory, but it is a journey down in obedience to death. Jesus does not come to conquer the city; he comes to die, and in this great reversal to win an even more profound victory. This is why he brings peace: he has turned us [from being enemies of God to friends through](#) his death. This is why he brings praise and joy: because his death and resurrection have dealt with the things which separate us from God and from one another. This is the power he offers: power to know forgiveness and peace of mind.

Jesus's reign is not nationalistic but universal. His mission is not only to proclaim release to the captives but also recovery of sight to the blind and good news to the poor...His crown is crown of thorns; his throne, a splintery cross. His exaltation does not come in riding a horse-drawn chariot amid the cheers of family and friends; rather, he finds his glory in being raised up on a cross amid the jeers of the masses. Through his death and resurrection this one who refuses to be an earthly king makes his royal entry by way of a cross and empty tomb.

This presents each of us with a challenge. Will we stand with the disciples and welcome this king of peace, praise and power? Or will we stand with the Pharisees who are like the resentful tenants who 'will not have this man to reign over us' ([Luke 19.14](#))?

What kind of king do you want?