

## Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

I rejoiced when I heard them say, 'Let us go to God's house.'

*Psalm*

In Jesus we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

*Second Reading*

Let us pray that all peoples will acclaim Jesus as Lord.

Almighty and merciful God,  
you break the power of evil and make all things new  
in your Son, Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe.

May all in heaven and earth acclaim your glory  
and never cease to praise you.

*Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:

2 Samuel 5: 1-3; Psalm 121 (122); Colossians 1: 2-20; Luke 23: 35-43

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In him we gain  
our freedom;  
the forgiveness  
of our sins.

Lord Jesus,  
remember me.

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**ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM**



Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe,  
Year C, 20th November 2022

'Lord Jesus, remember me'

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. As we prepare to crown a new King for the United Kingdom, we pray to learn what being 'King' means for Jesus. We may be surprised!

The **First Reading** describes the anointing of David as King of Israel. His people describe him as 'one of us', a person who has led and shepherded them.

The **Gospel** describes the reactions of people to the crucifixion of Jesus. We witness the humility of the thief who recognises his poverty and wrongdoing, and quietly asks Jesus to remember him.

The **Psalm** is one of rejoicing and praise as the people of God come to the house of the Lord to celebrate their freedom.

St Paul speaks of the grace and joy that has come to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Christ, we gain our freedom through the forgiveness of our sin (**Second Reading**).

Today I pray to know from the depths of my heart that I am a loved and forgiven sinner, welcomed by God into the light of his glory and joy.

We continue to pray for the peace of the world, and for all who suffer.



### Collect:

Almighty ever-living God  
whose will it is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,  
grant, we pray,  
that the whole creation, set free from slavery,  
may render your majesty service  
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.

## Second Reading Colossians 1: 12–20

**W**e give thanks to the Father who has made it possible for you to join the saints and with them to inherit the light.

Because that is what God has done: taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that the Father loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God,  
and the first-born of all creation,  
for in him were created  
all things in heaven and on earth:  
everything visible and everything invisible,  
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers –  
all things were created through him and for him.  
Before anything was created, he existed,  
and he holds all things in unity.

Now the Church is his body,  
he is its head.

As he is the Beginning,  
he was first to be born from the dead,  
so that he should be first in every way;  
because God wanted all perfection  
to be found in him

and all things to be reconciled through him and for him,  
everything in heaven and everything on earth,  
when he made peace by his death on the cross.

As I prepare to become still, I know that God is with me, gazing on me. How am I, as I come to prayer today? I ask God to reveal the joy of Christ's freedom and forgiveness, for me and through me today.

Slowly, I read the words of praise and glory from St Paul as he invites me to 'give thanks' for 'what God has done'. I ponder his words.

I notice what touches my mind and heart. What picture of Jesus do I receive as I read? If I am struggling, it may be that another way of seeing Jesus is more meaningful for me? I talk to Jesus my saviour.

In silence, I listen for whatever God might have to say to me.

I end my prayer slowly, giving thanks. 'Our Father ...'

## Gospel Luke 23: 35–43

**T**he people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.' The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar, they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.' But the other spoke up and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' Jesus replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

I take time to come to stillness in the way that is best for me, conscious of moving into this holy space before the Lord. I ask the Holy Spirit to help me respond today with openness and generosity.

I read these words from St Luke slowly, taking time to savour them, to notice the words or phrases that draw my attention.

Maybe it helps my prayer to place myself close to Jesus, watching as the scene unfolds. Perhaps I hear him talking to me, too. I sit quietly and listen.

I may like to stay with the differing reactions of the people before the cross of Jesus; the hostility, mockery, anger, rebuke or humble request.

I notice how these words touch me.

I ponder; how do they relate to my life today?

What does humility mean for me?

I share my deepest thoughts and feelings with the Lord as I would with a trusted friend, asking for whatever help or grace I need.

I spend a little time in silence before the mystery of the love of Christ crucified.

In time, I slowly end my prayer, perhaps with the words 'Glory be to the Father ...', as I ask the Lord to deepen his life within me.