

1230
1300
1745

1986

Monday Prayers - 832

19.11.81
22.11.82
21.11.88
28.11.91

832

I have visited (Brucki Road) May We Pray You [Lent of Light 2^o]

In Paradisum (Dwarfle) PREFACE: Christ King

CBS-965
CBS-965
Tellet: Gloria Tibi
HNU-256

— The Preface-prayer for the Eucharist-liturgy of
 (this coming Sunday) ^{yesterday} the ^{Festival} Feast of Christ the King, ^{last Sunday, and} (It's) the ^{last} Sunday of this
 present church year, a rounding-off time. But in fact I suppose most
 people are more attuned to the fact that 'Christmas is coming': at the
 end of one cycle before another begins maybe doesn't impress itself too
 much. Or maybe it's just that we don't like endings, and prefer to
 think of new beginnings. Anyway, this ending, of the church year, is of
 course also a beginning. ^{as} the resurrection and ascension of Christ was too.
 And that's actually what the Feast of Christ the King is about, in any case —
 the 'kingship' we talk about is really another way of talking about His Ascension
 as well as His place in the world He physically departed from. As a title,
 'king' may seem not a little old-fashioned and out-of-date these days: politically
 there are very very few such left, and there's something a little nursery-schoolbook
 about the whole idea in these more "democratic" times (as we like to think).
 But whatever name it's called by, the reality of power and power-structures in
 the world is very much with us still, and always will be. And that's the
 point of celebrating Christ as our King: that all human power & authority is
 subject to Him, who is the real Lord and Master of the universe. No earthly
 power, however much control or dictation it may exercise over human life
 can give life or put bounds to the fullness of life itself: Justice, love, peace,
 truth, life — they're all of them ideals of the human spirit, but human
 power alone cannot bring them about for everyone. But yet we believe

there can be, should be, peace and justice, truth and brotherhood. And yes,
 there is, already among us in people who are ruled by Christ's love and His
 way: there will be, under Him, a world of truth and justice, love and peace.
 We believe now, that all of human history is the unfolding of Christ's
 dominion which already is, but not yet: that human life is destined to
 put its stamp on all other things on earth and will imbue them with the
 destiny that belongs to human freedom. This is a specifically Christian
 hope, a dream that begins in Christ and can only be realized in Him,
 "for everything is to be put under His feet". This hope, the programme
 for His first disciples, has become in fact the model for all other
 human programmes... even atheistic communism was launched in a
 Christian milieu from the writings of Christian thinkers. So much for
 the doctrine behind the celebration of Christ the King. But do we in
 fact experience the Lordship of Christ in our lives — or is it just an
 interpretation we put on lives that are really no different from unbelievers?
 Well, we do experience that Lordship, in various ways: when, for instance,
 we find ourselves living out an ultimate purpose that goes beyond, & puts
 some meaning into, the everyday purposes: not content or satisfied with
 having or getting things, with aimless pleasure: when we experience the
 absurdity of being lorded over by anything or anyone but Christ, knowing
 we're being governed by what corrupts and dies. Reflect on that a little

Please ^{COL. U-687} ¹² now, listen to this song, "Lord our God" MUSIC
 from the same source as "With open hands" PRAYERS
 played for you last ^{than}, Handel's JUDAS MACCABAEUS, the chorus "Halleluia. Arise"

Prager (Deiss Biblical 93, 171)

[When Christ is the Lord of our lives,.....

EQ. AMERICA 14/11/81 p309

88

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From the gospel of St Luke: "Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was to come, Jesus gave them this answer, 'The coming of the kingdom of God does not admit of observation and there will be no one to say "Look, it's here! Look, it's there!" For look, the kingdom of God is among you. He said to the disciples 'A time will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man and will not see it. They will say to you "Look, it's here!" or "Look, it's here." Make no move: do not set off in pursuit; for as the lightning flashes from one part of heaven lights up the other, so will be the Son of Man when his Day comes. But first he is destined to suffer grievously and be rejected by this generation. . . . Where the body is, there too will the vultures gather."

St Luke's gospel, for your meditation and prayer. And let's finish with the music I've been using these past couple of months to begin and then programme: "Play Me Frank You", from the St Louis Jematis' album "Lord of Light" - new week, a new season and a new song