

Sunday Next Before Advent: Christ the King

Proper 29

Year A

Collect Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in thy well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Lesson

Ezekiel 34:11-20

[**T**HE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME: “THUS] SAYS THE LORD GOD: BEHOLD, I, I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when some of his sheep have been scattered abroad, so will I seek out my sheep; and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ And I will bring them out from the peoples, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the fountains, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴ I will feed them with good pasture, and upon the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on fat pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵ I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice. ¹⁷ As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, rams and he-goats. ¹⁸ Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must foul the rest with your feet? ¹⁹ And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have fouled with your feet? ²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.”

Psalm 95



- 1 O come, let us sing unto the | LORD; *
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our sal- | vation.
 - 2 Let us come before his presence with thanks- | giving; *
and show ourselves glad in him with | psalms.
 - 3 For the LORD is a great | God; *
and a great King above all | gods.
 - 4 In his hand are all the corners of the | earth; *
and the strength of the hills is his | also.
- 2nd half*
- 5 The sea is his, and he | made it; *
and his hands prepared the dry | land.
 - 6 O come, let us worship and fall | down, *
and kneel before the LORD our | Maker.
 - 7 For he is the Lord our | God; *
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his | hand.
 - 8 To-day, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your | hearts *
as in the provocation,
and as in the day of temptation in the | wilderness;
 - 9 When your fathers | tempted me, *
proved me, and saw my | works.
 - 10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and | said, *
It is a people that do err in their hearts,
for they have not known my | ways;
 - 11 Unto whom I swear in my | wrath, *
that they should not enter into my | rest.

The Epistle

I Corinthians 15:20-28

[I]N FACT CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD, THE FIRST FRUITS OF THOSE who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also

the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ "For God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "All things are put in subjection under him," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things under him. ²⁸ When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things under him, that God may be everything to every one.

The Holy Gospel

St. Matthew 25:31-46

[J]ESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES:] "WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMES IN HIS GLORY, AND all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? ³⁸ And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? ³⁹ And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' ⁴⁶ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."