

CHRIST THE KING

23rd November, 2008

First Reading

Ezek. 34:11-12, 15-17

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

“Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. “I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. “As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: I shall judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and goats.” Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 23

Response: *The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want*

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| 1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. | 3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
R. my cup is overflowing. R. |
| 2. Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name. | 4. Surely goodness and kindness shall
follow me
all the days of my life.
R. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. R. |

Second Reading

1 Cor. 15:20-28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in

subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put all things in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven! **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mtt. 25:31-46

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

℟: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

He will sit upon his seat of glory and he will separate people one from another.

Jesus said to his disciples, “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. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

“Then 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; for 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, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

“Then 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? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ “And 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.’ “Then 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; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I 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.’

“Then 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?’

“Then 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.’

“And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

For the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.