

CHRIST THE KING (LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST)

NOVEMBER 26, 2017



THE LESSON Ezekiel 34:11-15, 20-24

¹¹The LORD God proclaims: I myself will search for my flock and seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out the flock when some in the flock have been scattered, so will I seek out my flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered during the time of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will gather and lead them out from the countries and peoples, and I will bring them to their own fertile land. I will feed them on Israel's highlands, along the riverbeds, and in all the inhabited places. ¹⁴I will feed them in good pasture, and their sheepfold will be there, on Israel's lofty highlands.

On Israel's highlands, they will lie down in a secure fold and feed on green pastures. ¹⁵I myself will feed my flock and make them lie down. This is what the LORD God says.

²⁰So the Lord God proclaims to them: I will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. ²¹You shove with shoulder and flank, and with your horns you ram all the weak sheep until you've scattered them outside. ²²But I will rescue my flock so that they will never again be prey. I will even judge between the sheep! ²³I will appoint for them a single shepherd, and he will feed them. My servant David will feed them. He will be their shepherd. ²⁴I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be their prince. I, the Lord, have spoken.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 100

¹Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth! ²Serve the LORD with celebration! Come before him with shouts of joy!

³Know that the LORD is God—he made us; we belong to him. We are his people, the sheep of his own pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanks; enter his courtyards with praise! Thank him! Bless his name!

⁵Because the LORD is good, his loyal love lasts forever; his faithfulness lasts generation after generation.

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that ¹⁶I don't stop giving thanks to

God for you when I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. ¹⁸I pray that the eyes

of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, ¹⁹and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. ²⁰God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead

and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, ²¹far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. ²²God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, ²³which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46

³¹Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left.

³⁴Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. ³⁵I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.'

³⁷Then those who are righteous will reply to him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? ³⁹When did we see

you sick or in prison and visit you?'

⁴⁰Then the king will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'

⁴¹Then he will say to those on his left, 'Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²I was hungry and you didn't give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn't give me anything to drink. ⁴³I was a stranger and you didn't welcome me. I was naked and you didn't give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

⁴⁴Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't do anything to help you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer, 'I assure you that when you haven't done it for one of the least of these, you haven't done it for me.' ⁴⁶And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life."

Scripture quotations are from the Common English Bible. Copyright © 2011 by the Common English Bible. All rights reserved. Used by permission. www.CommonEnglishBible.com

Word Alive!® Lectionary Service Abingdon Press Litho in U.S.A. 11174