

CHRIST THE KING

Last Sunday before Advent

Sunday 22 November

Readings for Year A

FIRST READING – *Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24*

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

I myself will search for my sheep,
and seek them out, like a shepherd,
says the Lord God.

In cloud and thick darkness they were scattered,
but now I shall rescue them,
and gather them together,
into their own land,

and feed them with good pasture
on the mountains of Israel,
by running streams,
where they will find rest.

I will seek the lost,
and bring back the strayed,
and bind up the injured,
and strengthen the weak;

but the full and the strong I shall feed with justice,
when I judge between the full and the hungry;
for it was the strong who drove the weak away,
and now I shall save my flock,
and judge between them.

I shall establish one shepherd,
my servant David,
to feed my sheep, and be their shepherd.

I, the Lord, will be their God,
and my servant David
shall be prince amongst them.

This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm 100

SECOND READING – *Ephesians 1.17-23*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I pray that the God of glory,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
may give you the spirit of wisdom and insight
as you grow in the knowledge of God.

I pray that you may know in your hearts
the full glory of the hope
to which God has called you,
which is the inheritance of all the saints,
and the immeasurable greatness of God's power
for all who believe.

This is the very power of God
that raised Christ from the dead,
to be seated at God's right hand
in the heavenly places,
far above all rule and authority,
all power and dominion,
and any name that can be named,
in this world or the next;
the same power of God that made Christ
the head of the whole church
(which is the body of Christ,
filled with the presence of Christ).

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL – *Matthew 25.31-46*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'When the Son of Man comes in glory,
and all the angels with him,
then he will sit as king on his royal throne.
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,
putting the sheep to his right hand
and the goats to the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand,
"Come, you that are blessed by my Father,
inherit the kingdom that has been 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 in rags 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 in rags 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,
whenever you did it
for one of the least of these,
who are my brothers and sisters,
you did it for me."

Then he will say to those at his left hand,
"You that are accursed,
depart from me into the eternal fire
that has been 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,
in rags 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 in rags or sick or in prison,
and did not take care of you?"

Then he will answer them,
"Truly I tell you,
whenever you did not do it
for one of the least of these,
you did not do it for me."

And these will go away for ever into punishment,
but the righteous into life.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.