

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

G (O

"'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." - Mt 25:34

SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

As for you, my sheep, thus says the Lord God, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats. (Ez 34:17)

PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)

SECOND READING:

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death. (1 Cor 15:25-26)

GOSPEL:

"He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." (Mt 25:33-34)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Monday: St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr; St. Columban, Abbot;

Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro, Priest and Martyr

Tuesday: St. Andrew Düng-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

Wednesday: St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr

Thursday: Thanksgiving Day
Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent





REFLECT

FIRST READING:

Ezekiel speaks of God as the "shepherd" who will tend to his flock with great care and discerning judgment. What is this teaching us about God's divine nature?

SECOND READING:

Paul reveals to the Corinthians the divine place of the resurrected Jesus Christ in God's final plans for salvation history. As Lord of all things, including death itself, Jesus will hand over everything to God at the end of time. Does this revelation bring you comfort or distress?

GOSPEL:

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the final judgment that will accompany his Second Coming and the end of time. Jesus describes the final judgment in the stark and contrasting terms of eternal life or eternal punishment. Why do you think so many people avoid thinking about Judgement Day?

THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE

Growing up Catholic means I must have heard a million times the passage in Matthew's Gospel about how doing things for the "least of these" means you have done them for Jesus. Okay, that is an exaggeration to make a point. But it has been a slogan for so many social justice activities, from clothing and canned food drives, to letter writing campaigns and peaceful protests.

Growing up I only knew how to help the least of these through the school and church activities of the time. Today, YouTube and GodTube are filled with videos of creative ways people reach out to one another. Have you seen the one about the pizza party for the homeless? How about the fake lottery ticket or the house bought from online donations for a poor man? There are even videos of people paying for the

car behind them at the drive-through! The awesome thing about this is that it serves as a witness to others. It is not boasting but instead sharing the Good News. Giving and good stewardship can be contagious!

Our pastor has several times over the years handed out \$10 bills to confirmation candidates and asked them to "pay it forward." They can keep the money or use it to make a difference in someone else's life. One teen planted a garden for an elderly woman. One bought ingredients for brownies and sold them to give even more than \$10 to charity. The teens not only learned something about good stewardship in the process, but also served as great examples to the parish community.

As always, there is much to be done. The King is coming soon! Let's spread the news and some love at the same time!

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHAT IS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION?

The practice of Eucharistic Adoration is a centuries old ritual and falls within a broader

category of devotions and rituals that are associated with the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In a particular way, Eucharistic Adoration is an extension of the worship and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that occurs in every Mass.

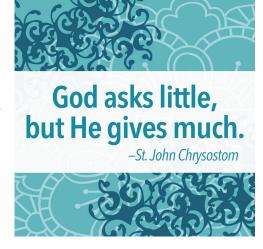
In a long-standing practice, a period of Eucharistic Adoration often ends with "benediction," the blessing of the faith with the Blessed Sacrament.

Several parishes throughout the United States have introduced the practice of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, while other communities have the custom of shorter periods of Eucharistic Adoration. Care should always be taken that these periods of adoration respect the instructions outlined in Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass, the liturgical book that gives the instructions for the proper celebration of

Eucharistic Adoration.

Although adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can never take the place of Eucharistic Communion, many Catholics find great comfort and consolation in their prayers before the Eucharist enshrined in the tabernacle or when it is exposed in the monstrance (both are equally valid, as the Christ is not more present in one than in the other). But when we consider our eucharistic

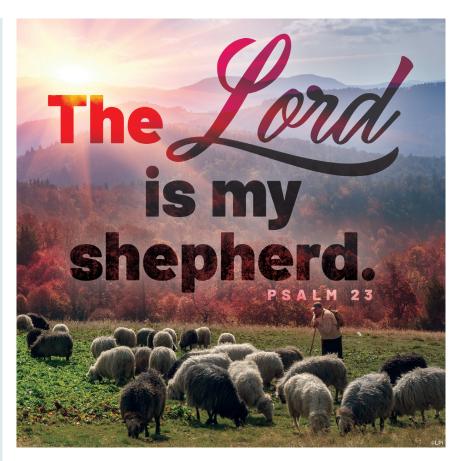
devotions, it is always important to remember the fundamental connection these acts of devotion have the celebration of the Eucharist in the Mass and reception of Christ in Communion.



LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Titles and privileges, palaces and guards, banquets and benefits, servants and fine living, are all things earthly folks associate with kings and royalty. These have no place in Christ. To understand the kingdom of Christ and what it means to have Christ as our king, one must be willing and able to understand transformation. engagement and empowerment. To live in the kingship of Christ, we have to live deeply and contemplatively; allowing God to change not only how we act, but how we feel, think, and see. It is not an easy journey or one that is always welcomed. Sometimes, it is easier and safer to live as if Christ were our earthly king. It's a more black and white world. But the kingdom of Christ exists in a world of gray where the hungry, thirsty, those who are strangers, naked, ill, and imprisoned find a welcome home. It is a kingdom that doesn't always make sense, where the last are first and the weakest are most strong. World economics and secular philosophy doesn't like this kind of king. Maybe that is why they crucified him the first time and continue to. Whatever we do to the least of God's children, we do to God. Do you really want to inherit the kingdom?



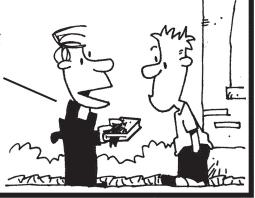
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CHRIST THE KING

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Many Americans are fascinated with England's monarchy. For many different reasons, we are drawn to the regal pageantry and all of the protocols associated with royal lifestyles. What's most amazing is that for all of the media attention focused on the comings and goings of English royalty, they really have very little effect on the day to day dealings of their country. Thoughts and images of kings and queens are often centered on this story book understanding of who and what they are. We associate protocols, etiquette, and proper words and actions to how we approach members of a royal family. These tools serve the necessary purpose of keeping them isolated, enthroned, and at a distance. There is something attractive about being an observer of ritual, pomp, and circumstance. It's almost theatrical.

Is this how we see Jesus Christ, too? We often behave as if Christ is an isolated, enthroned, royal, and even ineffective king. Jesus wants nothing to do with having the status of an earthly king. Jesus also does not want to be watched, observed, or set apart. He wants to get down and dirty with the very stuff of life especially the poor, marginalized, confused, hurting, lost, broken, imprisoned, and forgotten ones. Jesus is the king who turns the tables on us and wants not only our attention but our engagement and conversion. He wants us to get dirty too.

How we treat other people is at the heart of Christ's kingdom. "Whatever



you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me." At different times in our lives we are all counted among the "least" ones. We may not be physically poor, but we can easily become emotionally and spiritually poor. We may not be marginalized as many physically are, cast aside because they have too many needs or don't quite fit in. But who hasn't experienced isolation, loneliness, inner turmoil, angst, heartache, or loss? Almost every human being has experienced brokenness at one point or another, or will most definitely at some future point, facing discouragement, fear, insecurity. People are thirsty for more than water. We are imprisoned by our prejudices, misconceived notions and ideas, selffocused obsessions and ideologies.

There is a lot of pain and many least ones around us. Stop, look and listen. This is what Christ the King is asking us to do. Look deeply into the eyes and soul of your sisters and brothers, all of them, and see Christ himself.

Being a spectator and observing all of the pageantry isn't enough. Jesus wants us to inherit the kingdom and live the kingdom. It is built on the blocks of love, mercy, compassion, hope, faith, and blessing. It engages those who want it, changes and informs minds, inspires and transforms hearts, converts and renews souls, and sets things right. There is such a great need around us. Are you ready and willing to do whatever you can to serve in God's kingdom?

"'When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.'" - Mt 25:38-40

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Fit the Gospel message into the empty squares:

| All the nations will be gathered before him. | |
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| | |

Share food with the hungry. Give clothes to the poor. Visit people who are sick. Share the good news about Jesus with people who have made bad choices. Jesus came to forgive them. God will see the loving things you do. He will reward you one day in heaven.

PRAYER

God, help me to share what you have given to me.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Read Matthew chapter 25, verses 31 through 46 with your family. Decide how you will make a difference. Share as Jesus asks.





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