

# November 22

Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe



**First Reading** (Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17)

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will look after and tend **my sheep**. As a **shepherd** tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly.

As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** (Psalm 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6)

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose. R.

Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake. R.

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows. R.

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come R.

**Second Reading** (1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28)

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his **coming**, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty 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. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel** (Matthew 25:31-46)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his **disciples**: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 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. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 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.’ Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, 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 no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in

prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Key Words

**Ezekiel** was one of the most important prophets in Israel. He lived during a time when many of the people of Jerusalem were taken prisoner and forced to live in exile, in Babylon. The king and Ezekiel were taken away, too. Ezekiel helped the people follow God's ways even though they were far from home.

God calls his people **my sheep** to show how valuable we are to God. Because they provide wool for clothing as well as meat for food, sheep are very important animals. A community's survival could depend on the safety and health of its sheep.

A **shepherd** is someone who takes care of a flock of sheep. He would spend days or weeks with his flock, sleeping with them and making sure they were always safe. God loves us with the same constant care.

The **Corinthians** were a community of Christians who lived in Corinth, a city in Greece. Saint Paul wrote them several letters, two of which were preserved and are in the Bible.

**Firstfruits** were the first crops collected at harvest time. These were offered to God. Saint Paul tells us that Jesus is the first fruits of salvation, the first to die and rise again.

Christ's **coming** or advent is his return at the end of time. All history is longing for Christ's return, when God's plan of salvation will be complete.

A **disciple** is a person who follows the teachings of a master and helps to spread these teachings. Jesus was such a master; he had many disciples, including us.

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