



**Week 4: Sunday, November 22 | The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

**The Gospel of Matthew: 25: 31-46**

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."

**1st Reading - EZ 34:11-12, 15-17**

**2nd Reading: 1 COR 15:20-26, 28**

## SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS & QUESTIONS

*Today we come to the end of the liturgical year, celebrating the magnificent feast of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Our readings provide contrasting images of this King of ours — He has authority over all, and yet, He is humble and tender in His care for us, especially the most vulnerable. How can we properly honor and love such a King?*

**Readings:** Ezekiel describes our Lord as a tender shepherd who knows his flock intimately, and actively seeks to heal and save us. Jesus Christ is indeed King of all, individuals and nations, both the material world and the spiritual world. As intimately as we are called to love our King, so too, must we revere and respect His authority over us. We must be ever mindful that everything we have is a gift from Him.

**Gospel :** What does Christ our King ask of us? Jesus gives specifics — feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, showing hospitality to the stranger, caring for the ill and imprisoned. These are the priorities of our King. And these must be our priorities, too. These are the things that matter up to our last days.

*“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.”*

1. Our famous images of Christ depict the Shepherd, the King on the throne, the crucified One (INRI), the Risen Christ, Baby Jesus.
  - Which Christ do you serve?
  - Which Christ do you pray to? Christ the King? Christ the Good Shepherd? Christ our Savior? The Resurrected Christ?
  - When you talk about Jesus to other people, is there a Christ you would introduce them to first?
  - On December 1, 1925, Pope Pius established the Solemnity of Christ the King the last Sunday of each Liturgical Year. In response to the rise of fascism and decadence growing in society in other ways, Pope Pius XI wanted people to look to Christ as the King of the Universe. Which Christ do you see as the answer to all the chaos going on in the world today?
2. The readings and Gospel of Matthew teach that salvation is the reward for compassion for the least of our brothers and sisters. How do you believe we will be saved? Other faiths, say that if you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you will be saved. Is this a challenge for you?
3. When is it hard for you to see the way you are treating others (especially those close to us) is the way you are treating Christ? What can help or hinder us from seeing Christ in the vulnerable?
4. What does “Better Together” mean to you as a call to Christian action?
5. See the Gratitude Examen below as a reflection for Thanksgiving.

## **A Gratitude Examen**

### **Reflecting on Our Blessings This Thanksgiving**

Gratitude is one of the greatest spiritual practices. It opens our minds, calms our hearts, and rids bitterness of its power. The “examen” is a spiritual practice to reflect on how we have responded to God’s work in our lives. This Thanksgiving, consider your own reasons for thankfulness!



What Gifts have You given me?  
How have I Received love from others?  
How is grace at work in Aspects of my life story?  
Do I Trust You to continue to bless me?  
Where have I missed Your movements?  
Have I used my Talents at the service of other?  
Do I see a purpose for my life Underway?  
How can I have the Discipline to thank You daily?  
Help me give Everything back to You!