



“For this reason the Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord’s Body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the Bread of Life, taken from the one table of God’s Word and Christ’s Body.” Dei Verbum, 21

Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe

Reading 1- Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 23: 1-2,2-3,5-6

Reading 2 - 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28

Gospel - Matthew 25: 31-46

Reading 1

For thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I myself will search for my sheep and examine them.

12

As a shepherd examines his flock while he himself is among his scattered sheep, so will I examine my sheep. I will deliver them from every place where they were scattered on the day of dark clouds.

I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest—oracle of the Lord GOD.

16

The lost I will search out, the strays I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, and the sick I will heal; but

the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd them in judgment.

Separation of the Sheep.

17

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

The first couple verses imply that the Lord is going to take over caring for Israel as their shepherd. Who has been fulfilling this role for them?

Is this reading strictly speaking about Ezekiel's times while the Israelites were in exile?

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose.

Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me to right paths
for his name's sake.

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

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.

Reading 2

But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits* of those who have fallen asleep.

21

* For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.

22

For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,ⁱ

23

but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;^j

24

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.^k

25

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

26

* The last enemy^m 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

What does verse 22 mean?

What is Matthew referring to when he says that Jesus is the first fruits?

How is death destroyed - in line 26?

Verse 28 seems to indicate that Jesus is subjected to the Father. Does that mean he is lesser than the Father?

Gospel

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne,
32

g 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.

33

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

34

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.

35

h For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me,

36

naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

37

Then the righteous* will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

38

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?

39

When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

40

i And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

41

* j 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.

42

k For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,

43

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.’

44

* 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?’

45

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.’

46

l And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

544 The kingdom belongs *to the poor and lowly*, which means those who have accepted it with humble hearts. Jesus is sent to "preach good news to the poor"; he declares them blessed, for "theirs is the kingdom of heaven." To them - the "little ones" the Father is pleased to reveal what remains hidden from the wise and the learned. Jesus shares the life of the poor, from the cradle to the cross; he experiences hunger, thirst and privation. Jesus identifies himself with the poor of every kind and makes active love toward them the condition for entering his kingdom.

2447 The *works of mercy* are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God:

What are the corporal works of mercy and why are they important?

What is the significance of faith and works in our salvation? Can we earn our way into heaven with good works?