

## **The Feast of Christ the King**

### **INTRODUCTION: (COMMENTATOR):**

Good morning!

On behalf of the Charis Community, I welcome you to our Sunday Mass. All are truly welcome, and we are excited that you are joining us whether it's your first time praying with us or if you've been with us for a while. The worship aid for Mass is on our website, and we will put the address in the chat for you should you like to pull it up to support your prayer.

We are a Eucharistic people, so we invite you to have bread and wine, in whatever form you have it, with you where you are. Even though we are in many locations, we affirm that we are one table of believers. We trust that the Holy Spirit has never been and will never be restrained by time or space or distance! So we gather as one people, as one Body, rooted in Christ, and rooted in God's love, together.

On this last weekend in Ordinary Time, we stand at the threshold of the season of Advent, the beginning of another liturgical year.

Today we ask ourselves: how have we measured up to the call of discipleship and stewardship? The Gospel message is clear. Those who have become more like Christ will inherit the kingdom of heaven.

Let us begin this liturgy in praise of God's mercy and compassion as we join our voices in song.

**FIRST READING: (LECTOR #1)      Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17**

*(Turn the microphone on.)*

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says Our God:

I myself will look after and tend my sheep.

As a shepherd tends the flock  
    when the sheep are scattered,  
    so I will 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 our 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,  
    I will judge between one sheep and another,  
    between rams and goats.

The Word of God.

R/. Thanks be to God.

**SECOND READING: (LECTOR #2)      1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28**

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Sisters and brothers,  
Christ has been raised from the dead,  
    the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since death came through a human being,  
    the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being;  
For just as in Adam and Eve all die,  
    so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,  
    but each one in proper order:  
    Christ the first fruits;  
    then, at his second coming, those who belong to Christ;  
    then comes the end,  
    when Christ hands over the kingdom to God,  
    when he has destroyed every sovereignty  
    and every authority and power.  
For Christ 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 Christ,  
    then Christ himself will also be subjected  
    to the one who subjected everything to him,  
    so that God may be all in all.

The Word of God.

R/. Thanks be to God

**GOSPEL (PRESIDER):**

**Matthew 25:31-46**

A reading from the Good News according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"When the Messiah comes in glory,  
accompanied by all the angels,  
then the Messiah will sit on a glorious throne,  
and all the nations will be assembled before the throne.  
The Messiah will separate them one from another,  
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,  
putting the sheep on the right and the goats on the left.

Then the Messiah will say to those on the right,

'Come, you that are blessed by God.

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,

'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 Messiah will say to them in reply,

'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did  
for one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me.'

*(...continue reading on next page)*

Then the Messiah will say to those on his left,  
‘Depart from me, you accursed,  
into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and the devil’s 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,  
‘When did we see you hungry or thirsty  
or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison,  
and not minister to your needs?’

The Messiah 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 Our Savior Jesus Christ.  
R/. Praise to you, O Jesus Christ.

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: (PRESIDER and COMMENTATOR)**

Freed by God in Christ to love and serve, particularly the least in our midst, we pray for the Church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation. Our response is Lord, Hear Our Prayer.

We pray for the hungry, that we will give freely of our plenty to feed the many who have too little to eat. (Pause for silent) We pray to the Lord: **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for the thirsty, that nations will unite in ensuring they have ready access to drinking water and sanitation. (Pause for silent) We pray to the Lord: **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for the stranger, that in every land a spirit of welcome and hospitality will overcome hostility and suspicion. (Pause for silent) We pray to the Lord: **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for the naked, that economies driven by consumption will be converted to economies of inclusion and generosity. (Pause for silent) We pray to the Lord: **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, especially in communities, states and countries overwhelmed by COVID-19, that they will be cared for with skill and compassion. (Pause for silent) We pray to the Lord: **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in prison, that they be treated humanely and be detained no longer than is just. (Pause for silent) We pray to the Lord: **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for the earth and all its creatures, that we will take all the steps we need to protect and care for it. (Pause for silent) We pray to the Lord: **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for our parish, that we will be more and more a community of care, warmth and selfless service. (Pause for silent) We pray to the Lord: **Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for the recently deceased, . . . , and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will be welcomed into the realm of eternal glory. (Pause for silent) We pray to the Lord: **Lord hear our prayer.**

We now invite you to unmute your mike to share your prayers with the community so we can pray with you today.

*After some silence, close us with these words...*

Into your wide embrace, shepherding God, we place all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy and your ever-present grace. Amen.