Readings at Mass on the Solemnity of Christ the King (Year A)

ENTRANCE HYMN *New English Hymnal* 352

FIRST READING Ezekiel 34.11-12, 15-17

A reading from the Prophet, Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord God: 'Behold, I, I myself, will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep; and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep; and I myself will make them lie down, *declares the Lord God*. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed; and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak; and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

As for you, my flock, *thus says the Lord God:* Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23(22). 1-2a, 2b-3, 5, 6; *R.* v. 1

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

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose. ***R***.

Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.
He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name. ***R***.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. ***R***.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending. ***R***.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15.20-26, 28

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father, after destroying every rule 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 all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***R.* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! ***R.***

GOSPEL Matthew 25.31-46

At that time: *Jesus said to his disciples,* 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the 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; I was a stranger, and you welcomed me; I was naked, and you clothed me; I was sick, and you visited me; I was in prison, and you came to me*." Then the righteous will answer him, saying, "*Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and welcome you; or naked, and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison, and visit you?*" And the King will answer them, "*Truly, I say to you: as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me*."

Then he will say to those on his left, "*Depart from me, you cursed, 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; I was a stranger, and you did not welcome me; naked, and you did not clothe me; sick and in prison, and you did not visit me*." Then they also will answer, saying, "*Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?*" Then he will answer them, saying, "*Truly, I say to you: as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me*." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

OFFERTORY HYMN *New English Hymnal* 296

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

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