

Christ the King

1st Reading: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17

| 2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28

| Gospel: Mt 25:31-46

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

GROW: Today, we acknowledge and celebrate Christ the King. It's hard to put this royal image together with today's Gospel passage, where Jesus is not asking to be treated like a king, but rather instructing us to perform merciful deeds for the least of his brothers and sisters. Yet it is the perfect follow-on to the previous three Sundays' Scriptures, where Jesus tells us what it means to live a life of holiness, preparation, and faithful investment in the Kingdom. Now we see what awaits those of us who turn over our lives to him, seeing the face of Jesus in the least among us – the poor, the imprisoned, the thirsty, the stranger. "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

GO: I confess that judgment day readings scare me a little. Some days I behave more like a "goat" than a "sheep." I have concluded that Jesus is not talking about farm animals here. He is talking about us humans and the choices we make or do not make through sins of omission. The list seems endless if I focus on all the things I *could* be doing to help others each and every day. Yet, rather than getting caught up in fear or guilt, today's readings encourage me, and remind me, that Jesus has told us what we need to do to be counted as "sheep" on the last day.

ACTIONS:

- Choose one corporal work of mercy today and act on it. What does it look like to "visit the sick?" You may not be able to go for an in-person visit due to the pandemic, but could you call a parishioner and visit with them over the phone? Make food for someone who is not feeling well? Check in on an elderly neighbor?
- Do you know some "sheep" – people who radiate faith and kindness to others? Just as you might network with a professional in your field, connect with that person. Ask them about their faith and how it inspires them in their daily lives.

Announcement: Healing Mass

The pandemic has taken a toll on all of us. Some of us or the people we know have contracted the coronavirus, some of our fellow citizens have died from it, leaving loved ones in grief, many are suffering psychologically, emotionally, spiritually, physical, mentally. Now more than ever, everyone is in need of healing in one form or another. Who do we turn to, who do we go to for healing except our Wounded Healer Jesus Christ, about whom Isaiah 53:5 says: "**By His stripes we are healed.**"

Beginning in December, there will be a healing Mass at Holy Trinity every first Friday of the month. The program for the healing Mass is as follows:

6:00pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with hymns.

6:20pm: Mass (Anointing during Mass)

May the precious blood of Jesus Christ bring you and your loved ones healing and peace.

--Fr. Anthony Ahamefule
Parish Priest