

QUESTION OF THE WEEK
with Sunday Scripture Readings
The Feast of Christ the King
November 22, 2020
Breaking Open the Word

STEP ONE: Listen to the Word

For Faith Sharing—Gospel [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

Theme: Jesus' kingdom is one of actions & deeds, not merely of words

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."

QUESTION 1: When you hear this powerful, disturbing reading today, what touches your heart? What challenges you?

STEP TWO: Look into Your Life

QUESTION 2: (for children): Who are the people most in need of your help who live around you, and how can you help them?

QUESTION 3 (for youth): What can you do (alone, with friends, or with family) to help those who are without food, shelter, or have other needs? When have you seen Jesus in the poor?

QUESTION 4 (for adults): As you grapple with this direct, demanding Gospel passage, name the people you have cared for personally—or if there are none, those for whom you will offer care in the coming weeks.

Reading I: [Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17](#)

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I 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 the Lord 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, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.

Reading II: [I Corinthians 15:20-26, 28](#)

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam 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 coming, those who belong to Christ; 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. For he 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 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.

[* The Scripture readings are from *The New American Bible*.]

HNJ MISSION STATEMENT: Jesus calls us, the Catholic community at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, graced by the Holy Spirit, to invite all people to experience the living and loving presence of Christ by nurturing the spiritual growth of all our members through energetic celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, daily prayer, lifelong study of our faith, witness, service and hospitality.

OVERVIEW OF TODAY'S READINGS

The Gospel: The list of corporal works of mercy are repeated 4 times to reinforce Jesus' insistence that how people treat others, especially those in need, is how they treat him. This list forms the heart of final judgment criteria.

The First Reading: Ezekiel energizes us by painting a picture of God as one who looks after us like a shepherd who rescues the scattered, binds up the injured and destroys the sleek and strong.

The Second Reading: Paul proclaims the good news that Christ is risen, the first to rise of those who have fallen asleep. Then he draws the point, first there was Adam and death, and then came Jesus and Resurrection to eternal life. We died with Adam, so we live in Christ.