

ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2020

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Year A



Welcome everyone into church, just as if you are welcoming Jesus.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,
grant, we pray,
that the whole creation, set free from slavery,
may render your majesty service
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise...



We say these words
or sing a hymn as the
priest approaches
the altar.



We ask for God's help.
Listen now to the
priest as he offers
this prayer.



FIRST READING EZEKIEL 34:11-12. 15-17

Usually, a farmer pays a shepherd to do the hard work of looking after his sheep. Yet, we hear from Ezekiel that it is God who going to do this work, not a paid worker. Like a shepherd standing in the

middle of his flock, God is going to keep us all in his sight. God will personally search out the lost and will bandage the wounded. God will provide rest for all the sheep, taking care of the weak and healthy alike.



LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.
God is our shepherd
who looks after every
one of us, his sheep.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 22

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



The cantor or psalmist
sings or says the psalm.
Listen to the verses,
and then respond by
using these words.



SECOND READING 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-26. 28

Everything hangs on Jesus' resurrection: if Jesus hadn't risen, there would be no Christianity. But the resurrection is not easy to explain. Paul is trying here to explain what the resurrection means to the Christians in Corinth. They

are having as much trouble as we might have today in understanding what it all means. What we do know is that Jesus' death and resurrection makes him king of all creation. All of us can enjoy life forever because of Jesus' power and love.



LOOK at the reader
and LISTEN.
Christ's death and
resurrection have
made him king,
ruler over every
other power.



We give a shout of
praise to God, using
these words taken
from the Bible.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!



DO YOU KNOW?

In Ezekiel's time shepherds were looked down on. No one wanted to be a shepherd. It was dangerous, hard work - and you smelled! How amazing then that God chooses the analogy of a shepherd looking after his sheep to explain how much God loves and cares for each one of us.



THINK

Jesus is our shepherd and we are his sheep. It is our job to listen for the shepherd calling us. Can we see Jesus in the people around us? Perhaps you can show that Jesus is your king by helping someone today.



GOSPEL MATTHEW 25:31-46

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Matthew.

Like a shepherd separates sheep from goats, on the last day the king will separate good people from bad. The good people, the sheep, will be rewarded by being welcomed into the kingdom of heaven. They have given food and drink to people who are hungry and thirsty, they have

sheltered people who are homeless and welcomed strangers. When they did this, they have looked after the king himself. Jesus is telling us in this parable, that our actions are what matter. When we take care of even the least important person in the world, we are taking care of Jesus.

STAND to LISTEN to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?



PRAY

Use your imagination in prayer. Be still and gently close your eyes. In the stillness of your heart hear God say, "I shall watch over you. I shall look after the lost, bandage the wounded and be a true shepherd."



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, please help us to recognise you in the people we meet. Help us to see your face in people who are hungry and thirsty, homeless or migrants and to welcome and look after them. Lord, hear my prayer.

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think of a time this week when you ignored someone who needed help and then think about a time when you were kind and helpful.

Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.



MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for showing me by your death on the cross what real power looks like. Help me to show my love for others by putting them first, even if it hurts. Amen.



IXΘΥΣ

is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



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