

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2020 (LEC. 160)

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE - SOLEMNITY

1. EZEKIEL 34:11-12, 15-17

2. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-26, 28

3. MATTHEW 25:31-46

GOSPEL RELATED:

CCC 331, 544, 598, 671, 678, 679, 1033,
1034, 1038, 1373, 1397, 1503, 1825,
1932, 2443, 2447, 2449, 2463, 2831
CSDC 57, 58, 183, 265, 403

FOCUS: THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING ALLOWS US TO HONOR JESUS IN HIS GLORY AND TAKE HEED OF HIS EXAMPLE IN CARING FOR OTHERS.



Today is the Solemnity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This is a grand and mighty title given to our Lord, as we acknowledge that he is King of Heaven and Earth. Jesus, however, does not call on us to treat him like royalty. Instead, he commands that we pay homage to him by caring for his people. The Gospel is clear: Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger. Jesus plainly tells us that by doing for others, we are doing for Jesus himself. Conversely, when we *fail* to care for another and his or her needs, we fail to care for Jesus. All who have answered Christ's call of discipleship, and who love and care for others, will inherit the Kingdom he has prepared for us.

There is an abundance of wisdom in the readings the Church has chosen for this special day. Surely, it is no accident that on the same day that we honor Jesus as King, he is also referred to as shepherd. One title appears grand and mighty. The other seems humble and unassuming, but both are integrally tied to the meaning of this feast.

For in coming to inaugurate and reign over the Kingdom, Christ also came in perfect humility. It is a humility that demands the same of us, in a holistic attitude that serves as an antidote to secularism (Cf., Pope Pius XI, *Quas primas* [Encyclical], promulgated Dec. 11, 1925, which introduced the feast).

It is a powerful image in today's Gospel as Jesus sits on his *glorious throne* surrounded by his angels, with the nations assembled before him waiting to be judged. It is clear that those sheep who have listened to his voice will be welcomed fully into the Kingdom, for they will have been living in the Kingdom on earth. The goats, however, will be left aside, having not heeded the simple commands of their shepherd.

If we are gathered here today, it means that we, however well or imperfectly, hear and are listening to our Shepherd's voice. By the way we cooperate with God's grace, we can continue what we are doing, we can begin again, or we can do more to listen and obey his word, and help to bring about the Kingdom here and now.



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