

NOVEMBER 23, 2014



SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



EZEKIEL 34:11-12, 15-17

PSALM 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-26, 28

MATTHEW 25:31-46

REFLECTION

This is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. We deal with the things that come at the end of time. Our big Church word for these themes is eschatological. (I told you it was big.) This feast day used to be called “Christ the King” and in the Gospel we see Jesus on the throne ready to pass judgment. This king is not interested in power and privilege though. His judgment is based on whether or not the needy were cared for. For all the worry and fear we spend on how to get to heaven, in this scene it really seems pretty basic. If someone is hungry, feed them. If someone needs something to drink, or clothes to wear, or someone to comfort them then we should take care of that need. So simple, right? In theory it seems like something that would be easy—see someone in need, meet the need. But so many times that is not what we do. We pay attention to our own needs but not anyone else’s, especially not those with nothing to give. Who could you reach out to? What could you do for the “least ones”? Imitate the Good Shepherd. Take care of the sheep.



Visit the website of NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby (www.networklobby.org/) to find out more about the poor and the vulnerable, and what you can do to help.

ACTION

“I was . . . ill and you cared for me” (Matthew 25:36). Offer comfort or consolation to someone who is sick. Visit a nursing home, write a letter to a person who is homebound, or send a note of encouragement to someone with a long-term illness.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Look up the liturgical song “At the Name of Jesus” found in the *Voices as One* hymnal. Write about your favorite line from the lyrics. What does the song say about our faith in Jesus?
- Have you ever done something that seemed like a small act of kindness at the time that turned out to be something more?