FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE KING

Christ the King Sunday
November 22, 2026

On today's Christ the King Sunday, we are presented with the imagery of a mighty potentate wearing resplendent raiment, living in opulence, sitting gloriously on an impressive throne. It is an imagery all too familiar in our world and among its many leaders. We have seen these kinds of kings and queens and emperors and pharaohs in Egypt and Babylon and Assyria and the Holy Roman Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire and many other empires and kingdoms and nations down through the centuries; individuals whose rule has always been seen as inviolable and absolute.

At first glance, today's Gospel seems to present us with another such king. Deacon John read these words: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another." It is a story of an almighty King who will come one day to weed out those who are worthy of belonging to his kingdom, and those who are not worthy. Yes, Christ the King's reign does appear to be very similar to that of any number of other secular rulers.

Ah, but Christ's kingdom is very different. Unlike other kings who show deference to the wealthy and famous and powerful and beautiful and intelligent; within God's kingdom, special attention is given instead to the poor and hungry and thirsty and outcast and sick and prisoners and widows and orphans, and strangers. All are invited in, to Christ's kingdom of freedom and love and abundance.

The prophet Ezekiel speaks as well of those who are citizens of Christ's reign. God's kingdom will be a kingdom where justice prevails for all; where all are cared for alike. The prophet speaks in the imagery of fat sheep and

skinny sheep. He tells of the fat ones who are obviously well fed and well provided for, who have access to all the necessities of life. Whereas the skinny sheep are underfed and lack nutritious food and the basic necessities of life. Ezekiel's story of the skinny sheep tells of the realities of life for many individuals in our world. But he contrasts this with Christ's kingdom where ALL will be well fed and well provided for; where none will be taken advantage of.

The Message Bible speaks God's words this way: "I myself am stepping in and making things right between the plump sheep and the skinny sheep. Because you forced your way with shoulder and rump and butted at all the weaker animals with your horns till you scattered them all over the hills, I'll come in and save my dear flock, no longer let them be pushed around. I'll step in and set things right between one sheep and another."

My friends, it is a sad reality of life that there is way too much disparity in this world and even in our country; between those who have, and those who do not. Where some have an abundance while others struggle just to survive day to day. It is a sad fact that many who live comfortable lives live as if there will be no reckoning; as if there is no coming reign of God's love and justice that will bring about a reset, making all things right.

You and I as baptized Christians are not children of darkness, we are children of God; children of the light. And as children of God's loving light, we swear our allegiance to God's alternate reign of love and life and justice and peace. We strive to bring about that justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

We bring Christ's reign to fruition every time we greet a stranger or listen deeply to someone who believes differently than we do; when we do what is ours to do to work against injustice and to bring to birth God's love in this world of ours.

May you and I live our lives as faithful servants of Christ the King.