

NOVEMBER 22, 2020  
CHRIST THE KING  
SUNDAY



*God's justice cares for the weak and lost.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 25:31-46</b>	<b>The sheep and goats</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Ezekiel 34:11-24</b>	<b>God, the true shepherd</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Ephesians 1:15-23</b>	<b>Paul's prayer</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalms 100</b>	<b>All lands called to praise God</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Isaiah 1:16-20</b>	<b>Justice is needed</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Amos 5:10-15</b>	<b>Choose good, not evil</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 95:1-7a</b>	<b>Worship and obey the Lord</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mark 13:24-37</b>	<b>When the Son of Man appears</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. **Ezekiel 34:16 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

God of glory and might, we give thanks that you are our God and that we are the sheep in your hand through Christ our Lord. (Psalm 95:7a)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, to you we make a joyful noise for all that you do, including your gift of this food for us today. Amen. (Psalm 95:1)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God of power and might bless you with joy and peace.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*When the Poor Ones*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- If you had all the power you could want, what would you want to do?
- What is wrong with the religious leaders in the Bible using their power for themselves?
- Why is it good news to know that God cares for the poor, the sick, and the hungry?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Matthew 25:31-46.

The God of the Bible is the God of justice but not just any kind of justice. God's justice recognizes the unfairness of power that abuses the weak. In Ezekiel 34 God has had enough of Judah's unjust shepherds, specifically, the kings who have not taken care of God's sheep. Therefore, God declares the sheep that are lost, strayed, and weak will be cared for by God's power and the fat and the strong sheep—supposedly those well off at the expense of the weak—will be destroyed (v. 16). That is the divine judgment Jesus presents in the parable of the sheep and the goats. God's will—Jesus' will, as seen in the Son of Man in the parable—is to provide for the needs of the hungry, thirsty, lonely, naked, or sick. The message is so strong that when anyone has cared for these, they have cared for the Son of Man. The Gospel of Matthew does not shy away from judgment that distinguishes the authentic from the inauthentic life of those who follow Jesus. Matthew speaks against those who abuse their powers, whether religious, social, political, or economic. This final Sunday in the church year recognizes that all evil abuses will end one day and only God's compassion will survive through Christ, the true ruler of all things. How do you live as though Jesus, the Son of Man is with you as you show care and help others in need?

*Pray:* **Almighty God, help us to see you in our neighbors, especially those in need of care through Jesus Christ, the one who is above all rule and authority. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Whether you live in an urban or rural setting, there are many in need. Donations of time and money are appreciated by those in need and the organizations that help them. Think about how you can help support these individuals or organizations.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Read Psalm 95:1-7a and circle or say the action words like "sing," "make a joyful noise," "bow down," and "kneel." Reread the psalm out loud and act out the parts you highlighted. Afterward, close with this blessing: **May the Lord God rejoice at the sound of your joyful noise and songs of praise.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)