November 22nd, 2026

Reign of Christ Sunday – Holy Communion

Scriptures

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

11 Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will
sort them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among
scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the
places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick
darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the
countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the
mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the
land. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel
shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they
shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.

15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie
down, says the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays,
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.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between
the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and
shoulder and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you
scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be
ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed
them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the Lord will be their
God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have
spoken.

Psalm 95: 1-7a

1 Come, let us sing | to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the | Lord with psalms.
3 For you, Lord, | are a great God,

and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are | also yours.
5 The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship | and bow down,**
let us kneel before the | Lord our maker.
7a For the Lord | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1: 15-23

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Source of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "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. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Parent, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and

you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

[37] Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? [38] And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? [39] And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' [40] And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' [41] Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, [42] for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

[44] Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' [45] Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46] And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

Prayers of the People

L: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation, saying "Hear us, O God" and responding, "Your mercy is great."

A brief silence.

Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kindom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need, especially Jose, Ann, Joan, Terri, Martha, Tim, Roxie, Chris, Alfred, Terry, Eleanor, Alma, Adam, Sylvia, George, Harold, Ted, Byron, and all for whom we pray at this time silently or aloud. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**