Readings + Reign of Christ, Lect. 34 A + Sunday, November 22, 2026

Prayer of the Day

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First 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.

17 As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord
GOD: I shall judge between sheep and sheep,
between rams and goats: 18 Is it not enough for
you to feed on the good pasture, but you must
tread down with your feet the rest of your
pasture? When you drink of clear water, must you
foul the rest with your feet? 19 And must my
sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet,
and drink what you have fouled with your feet?

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 ruler among them; I, the LORD, have
spoken.

Psalmody Psalm 95:1-7a

Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.

For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

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

Paul writes: 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
Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom
and revelation as you come to know God, 18 so
that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you
may know what is the hope to which God has
called you, what are the riches of God's glorious
inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the
immeasurable greatness of God's power for us
who believe, according to the working of God's
great power. 20 God put this power to work in
Christ when God raised him from the dead and
seated him at the right hand of Power 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 God has put all things under
the feet of Christ and has made him the head
over all things for the church, 23 which is the body
of Christ, the fullness of the One who fills all in
all.

Holy Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

Only Matthew includes this parable.

⌜Jesus told the disciples about the reign of heaven:⌝

31 "When the Son-of-Humanity 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 that are blessed by my Father,
inherit the dominion 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, 'I
tell you the truth, just as you did it to one of the
least of these who are members of my family, you
did it to me.'

41 Then he will say to those at his left hand,
'You that are accursed, depart from me into the
eternal fire prepared for the devil and the devil's
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 the king will answer
them, 'I tell you the truth, 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."