Sunday 22 November – Christ the King

Collect

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

[11]Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. [12]As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek 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 will 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 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.

[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 O come, let us sing to the Lord; ♦
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving ♦
and be glad in him with psalms.

3 For the Lord is a great God ♦
and a great king above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth ♦
and the heights of the mountains are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it, ♦
and his hands have moulded the dry land.

6 Come, let us worship and bow down ♦
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

7 For he is our God;

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards 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 I pray 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 him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you
may know 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 him who
fills all in all.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31–46

Jesus said to his 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 that are blessed by my Father,
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 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 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.’