

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and prince of peace: Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
 Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary: Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*
 Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father: Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
 May almighty God have mercy on us....Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us; For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Ezekiel 34:11 - 12. 15 - 17

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.
 The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest - it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;

there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. [R]

2. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. [R]

3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. [R]

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. [R]



SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 15: 20 - 26.28.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.
 Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 25: 31 - 46.

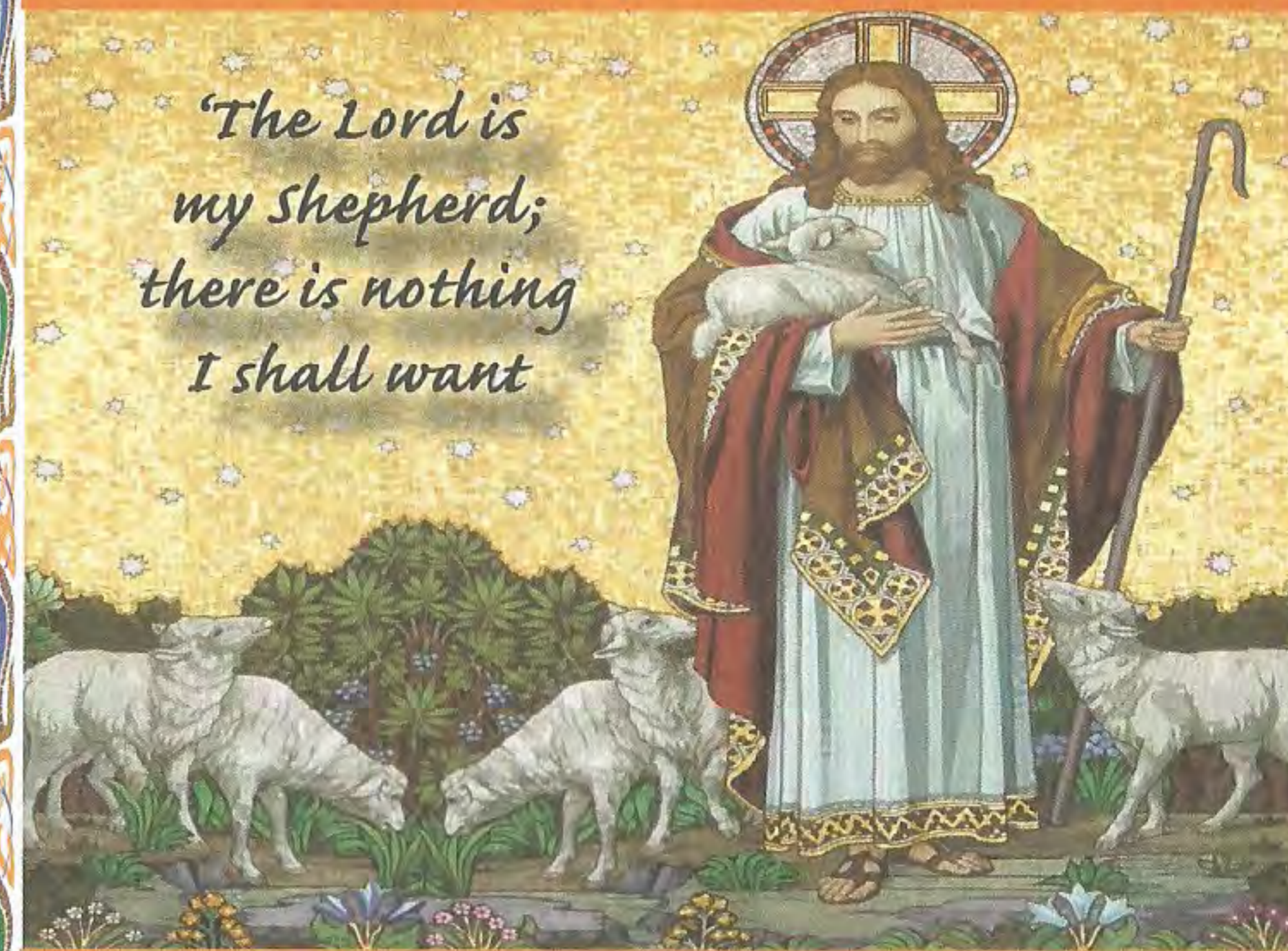
A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew
 Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry



focus on sunday

Jesus' kingship is the kingship of one who is dedicated to his Father. He lives and dies for the truth. In his death and resurrection he is enthroned in the glory of his Father. This is the kingship we celebrate: one who has passed through the worst of human life to a life and joy that is eternal.

'The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want



and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, All bow for following two lines: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we offer you, O Lord, the sacrifice by which the human race is reconciled to you, we humbly pray that your Son himself may bestow on all nations the gifts of unity and peace. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.



We associate king with words like power, authority, distance, homage and many more. The king presented by Jesus is very different, as in our readings this week.

Christ the king is more a shepherd and often called a shepherd-king. The one who looks after all the sheep, looks for the lost and is loved by the sheep.

In the gospel Jesus presents us with a representative list of those who need the most looking after in the world: like the hungry and thirsty, who will die if help is not given. He highlights people who are often neglected as not worth our time – the stranger, the prisoner and the sick. He looks out for the least ones.

Today we face the challenge of trying to care for the millions who starve and lack good water; the people confined in nursing homes because of the dangerous virus; the prisoner, locked and hidden away. They are ones Jesus remembers every day himself. Can we do the same, and put our remembrance into action?

Let me notice this week, O Lord, the needy ones on my doorstep.
 Donal Neary SJ, Editor, Sacred Heart Messenger.

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