Sunday, November 22, 2026 - Christ the King Sunday

Re Christ the King Sunday

Matthew 25:31-46 - The Judgment of the Nations

In His last recorded message before the crucifixion – in Matthew 25 – as well as in the first recorded message of His three-year ministry – in Luke 4 – Jesus showed His concern for the poor.

In Matthew 25, on that final day, when Jesus is crowned as King of the universe, He will separate everybody who has ever lived into two groups – sheep on His right, goats on His left – dependent upon their response to people in need.

We are not saved by our works of compassion. Instead we are saved by the compassionate work of Jesus.
But those who have been saved by the compassion of Jesus need to turn to works of compassion in the name of Jesus.

In Luke 4 Jesus returned to His hometown of Nazareth and went to the synagogue.
He was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He turned to Isaiah 61, where He read, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor."

Imagine handing God a Bible and asking Him to pick a verse.
What verse do you think He would pick?
What one passage from the entire Old Testament do you think He would select?

"He has sent Me . . . to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Isaiah 61: 2)
The Year of Jubilee – every fifty years – when all the fields were to lie fallow, all the land was to be given a rest, all slaves were to be released, all debts were to be cancelled, and all land was to be returned to its original owner.

Twice a century everyone was to be given a fresh start.
Every fifty years God pushes the great re-set button.

God loves to give people a fresh start.
God is in the business of giving people a fresh start.

Where do you need to push the re-set button? Where do you need a fresh start?

What do these words of Jesus have to say to our world today?
God has a heart for the poor.
Do we as a Church – do you – have a heart for the poor?

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 - God, the True Shepherd

The image of God as Shepherd is expressed most beautifully in Psalm 23.
It is also used here in Ezekiel 34 as well as by Jesus in John 10. In describing Himself as the Good Shepherd, Jesus is identifying Himself with the Lord God of Psalm 23 and Ezekiel 34.

Notice the kinds of things that God will do for His sheep. Cf. Psalm 23.
How blessed we are to have a God who will do all that for us.

11 - I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out.

12 - I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered.

13 - I will bring them out from the peoples, gather them from the countries, and bring them into their own land.

I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses.

14 - I will feed them with good pasture; they shall lie down in good grazing land.

15 - I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down.

16 - I will seek the lost, bring back the strayed, bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak.

I will feed them with justice.

22 - I will save my flock; they shall no longer be ravaged.

23 - I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David; he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

Ephesians 1:15-23 - Paul's Prayer

Typical phraseology for Paul –

15 - I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints.

17-18 - I pray that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you.

16 - I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

Notice the way Paul describes who Jesus is and what Jesus has to give -

18 - The riches of his glorious inheritance.

19 - The immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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 - He has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church.

23 - (The church) is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

No wonder we respond with the words of Psalm 95

1 - O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
2 - Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
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; the heights of the mountains are his also.
5 - The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

6 - O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
7 - For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.