THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

NOVEMBER 22, 2026

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23:1-6

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

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-26

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

LITURGY NOTE

The Solemnity of Christ the King occurs on the last Sunday of each liturgical year. Instituted in response to growing secularism and the abandonment of God's authority in the 20th century, this celebration is a yearly reminder that while times change and other authorities rise and fall, Jesus Christ reigns as King forever. The readings in this cycle encourage us to acknowledge God's benevolent authority and live as true subjects of so noble a King by imitating his care and concern for others.

KEY WORDS

Shepherd, Judgment, Sin, Death, Resurrection, Inheritance, Compassion, Service, Outreach

KEY THEMES

1. Christ is the good shepherd, the just judge, and the king of kings.
2. God is merciful, but there are repercussions for those who do good and those who do evil.
3. In Adam, sin entered the world; in Christ, forgiveness of sins gives us everlasting life.
4. Death is destroyed. Jesus is victorious.
5. The King cares about his sheep. We are to serve the poor at all times. God judges us for the good we do.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

1. For our priests, that they be faithful imitators of the Good Shepherd and serve their flocks with love and fidelity.
2. For all of us gathered here, that we may be reminded of and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives during this holiday season.
3. For all of us gathered here, that we may attend to the needs of our neighbors with eagerness and perceive the presence of Christ in them.

HOMILY PREPARATION

1. Jesus' words in the Gospel remind us that he is present in the most needy and vulnerable. Who are the needy and vulnerable in the life of an average teenager?
2. What are some practical ways you can carry out the Corporal Works of Mercy?

SONG SUGGESTIONS

Gathering

At the Name of Jesus (Bolduc) [giamusic.com]

Here Is Our King (Crowder) [CCLI #490962]

Hosanna (Ligertwood) [CCLI #4785835]

Jesus Messiah (Tomlin, Carson, Cash, Reeves) [CCLI #5183443]

Mighty to Save (Morgan, Fielding) [CCLI #4591782]

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is My Shepherd (C. Colson, K. Colson) [craigcolson.com]

The Lord is My Shepherd (Hart) [ocp.org, Spirit & Psalm]

The Lord is My Shepherd (LaRosa) [francescalarosa.com]

The Lord is My Shepherd (C. Muglia) [psalmsbychris.com]

Preparation

God So Loved (Bergthold, E. Cash, F. Cash, M. Cash, S. Cash) [CCLI #7138599]

Great Are You, Lord (Leonard, Ingram, Jordan) [CCLI #6460220]

How Great Thou Art (Hine, Baloche) [CCLI #14181]

Revelation Song (Riddle) [CCLI #4447960]

To the Heights (Blakesley, Catherine, Finch, Hart) [ocpworshipdml.com]

You Are My King, Amazing Love (Foote) [CCLI #2456623]

Communion

Bread, Broken and Given (Thomson, Talarico) [giamusic.com]

Come Let Us Adore (Finch, T. Muglia, Thomson) [ocpworshipdml.com]

I Am The Bread of Life (Angrisano, Booth) [ocp.org, CCLI #7228733]

Jesus, Living Bread (Booth) [ocp.org]

We Belong to You (Thomson) [ocp.org, CCLI #5778951]

Second Communion

How Great Is Our God (Tomlin, Cash, Reeves) [CCLI #4348399]

Jesus, My Everything (Maher, Booth) [ocp.org, CCLI #4510835]

King of Kings (B. Ligertwood, Ingram, S. Ligertwood) [CCLI #7127647]

King of My Heart (J. McMillan, S. McMillan) [CCLI #7046145]

Ocean of Mercy (C. Muglia, Thomson, Wills) [ocpworshipdml.com]

What a Beautiful Name (Fielding, B. Ligertwood) [CCLI #7068424]

Sending Forth

At the Sound (Ndolo, Seay) [ocp.org, CCLI #5657876]

Blessed Be Your Name (M. Redman, B. Redman) [CCLI #3798438]

I Believe (Davenport, Smith, Wickham) [CCLI #7218424]

Jesus Reigns (Angotti) [giamusic.com]

The Lion and the Lamb (Brown, Johnson, Mooring) [CCLI #7038281]

This Is Amazing Grace (Riddle, Farro, Wickham) [CCLI #6333821]

PLANNING SHEET

Liturgical Celebration: _____

Date: _____ **Mass Time:** _____

MINISTERS

Celebrant: _____

Deacon(s): _____

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Greeters/Hospitality: _____

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Lector 1: _____

Lector 2: _____

Gift Bearers: _____

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Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

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NOTES

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ORDER OF CELEBRATION

Gathering Song: _____

Penitential Act: _____

Kyrie: _____

Gloria: _____

First Reading: _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Second Reading: _____

Gospel Acclamation: _____

Profession of Faith: _____

Prayer of the Faithful: _____

Song of Preparation: _____

Holy, Holy: _____

Memorial Acclamation: _____

Great Amen: _____

Our Father: _____

Lamb of God: _____

Communion Songs: _____

_____

Silence or Song of Praise: _____

Sending Forth: _____

Royal Roundup
The Solemnity of Christ the King

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The Ascent

Welcome and Introduction (5 min)
Welcome all of the teens to the discipleship group and invite them to share one “high point” and one “low point” from their week. If there are new teens, invite them to introduce themselves.

Separate Pieces (10 min)
Begin the session with a game that highlights the teens’ ability to separate two things that are hard to divide. Prior to the session, collect a combination of various objects. Some combinations include:

- Dry macaroni noodles and beans
- Nails and screws
- M&M’s and Skittles
- Two decks of cards with a slight variation in design

Have the teens find a partner and give each pair one of the combinations. The pair that separates the items the fastest wins.

Lectio

Opening Prayer
Lord God, you are the king of our hearts, and someday you will come in glory to separate the sheep from the goats. If you come while we are still on Earth, may we be put on your right side. Teach us, today, what we need to do to ensure a life forever in your heavenly Kingdom. Amen.

Our Voice (10 min)
Use the following questions to prepare the group for the topic of the session:

- Why do we focus on being ready for the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the liturgical year?
- Why is it important to be ready for the Lord's Second Coming?

God's Voice (5 min)
Read Matthew 25:31-46 aloud and then invite a teen to read the passage aloud. Encourage the teens to actively listen. After the second read through, invite the teens to open their Bibles and silently read the passage a third time. Allow time to pause and reflect between read-throughs.

Meditatio

Reflecting on God's Voice (10 min)
Invite the teens to take a few minutes to silently reflect and journal on the following questions:

- If the Lord were to come today, what do you think he would say about the way you are living your life?
- Reflect on each work of mercy listed in the Gospel passage: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and visiting the imprisoned. How do you live out each of these works in your day-to-day life? How can you better live out these works in your life?

Oratio

Discussing God's Voice (30 min)
Following the silent reflection, guide the teens in a time of discussion. The following questions are a great starting point for the discussion, but be open to where the Holy Spirit may guide it:

- What are your initial thoughts after hearing this reading? What stands out to you?
- Jesus said, "What you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me" (Matthew 25:45). What did he mean by this? Does it cause you to pause and consider anything about your own life?

- What are the works of mercy listed in today's Gospel? Why are they so important?
- Is it easy or difficult to live out the works of mercy? Why? Is there one in particular that is easier or more difficult than the others? How can you grow in that area?
- Do you practice the works of mercy Jesus alluded to in the Gospel reading in your own life? Why or why not? How can you better incorporate these works into your own life?
- How can we, as a group, better incorporate these works of mercy?

Contemplatio

The Works of Mercy (10 min)

At the end of the session, give a brief recap of the corporal works of mercy. Then, give the teens time to participate in a work of mercy. Encourage them, as a group, to brainstorm ways they can live out the works of mercy. Consider using this time to plan a service project the group can complete together, like volunteering at a soup kitchen, organizing a clothing drive, or hosting a bake sale to raise money for a charity.

Closing Challenge

Invite the teens to determine which corporal work of mercy is most difficult for them to live out in their daily life and challenge them to incorporate this work into their life in a concrete way this week.