



Christ The King

The Old Testament reading from the prophet Ezekiel describes God's words as that of a Shepherd. Tending the sheep and gathering those who are scattered. He comes with the promise to rescue the sheep. He offers them rest and refreshment. He will heal those injured and bind up the sick. This Shepherd will also be a Judge who will separate the good from the evil. This is a different understanding of what is meant by being a "King."

Jesus harkens back to these images in the 25th chapter of Matthew's gospel. He describes His glorious return at the end of time to separate sheep from goats. As they listen to Him, He explains how choices will be made as to who will be saved. Then comes the famous discourse and Jesus describing Himself as hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked or in prison and how He was either tended to or ignored. Those who tended to Him will be saved. He expresses clearly that serving the least among us is serving Him. This final judgment will result in some going to eternal life and others to eternal damnation.

The Lord and King of the Universe illustrates that He holds the power to give life itself. St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians teaches about the kingly authority Christ possesses, given by the Father with dominion over every creature.

You and I have the benefit of two thousand years of Church teaching and the Sacred Scriptures to guide us toward eternal life. Look for Jesus in the face of those around you, especially the least and serve Him through them.

Peace,

Fr. Robert