The Word @ Home

Christ the King Sunday
Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

The Point

Jesus calls us to show our love for him by helping others

Key Verse

"The king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'"
– Matthew 25:40

Scripture Summaries

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

The Sheep and the Goats

Jesus will separate the people into two groups, one on his left and one on his right. Those on his right fed Jesus when he was hungry, gave him drink when he was thirsty, clothed him when naked, and visited him when he was a prisoner. But they do not remember seeing Jesus in these dire straits. Jesus tells them that as they helped those in need, they helped him. These people will receive eternal life. Conversely, those who did not help those in need will be sent into eternal punishment.

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

This reading from Ezekiel also uses the familiar example of sheep and shepherds. In this case, God cares for the sheep like a loving shepherd, gathering them, providing for them, and keeping them safe from harm.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul praises the Ephesians for their faith, and prays that the Holy Spirit will continue to bless them with even greater wisdom. Again, the kingdom is an inheritance for God's holy people.

Seasons & Festivals

Today is Christ the King Sunday. This is the final Sunday in the liturgical year, meaning that a new year starts next Sunday with the beginning of Advent. This Sunday celebrates Jesus' place as lord throughout our lives, and how this kingship in turn influences who we are as Christ's followers. It is a celebration of Jesus seated at the right hand of God and Lord over all of creation.

Discussion Starters

- Think about royalty that you know from children's stories, movies, or fables (cartoon princesses, stories about princes, etc.). What traits do these royalty share? Which of those traits also remind you of Jesus?
- Which of these parables about the kingdom have been the easiest for you to understand? Which was the hardest? (Laborers in the vineyard, wedding banquet, ten bridesmaids, ten talents, sheep and goats.)
- Name one way you can show your love for Jesus by helping someone else this week.

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Prayer of the Week

Jesus, help us to show your love to others. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday	**Read Matthew 25:31-46** Jesus tells the parable of the sheep and the goats. Search online for pictures of sheep and goats. Try to identify the differences.
Monday	**Read Revelation 21:5-27** Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Make a list of as many things as you can think of that have a beginning and an end.
Tuesday	**Read Isaiah 33:17-22** Isaiah describes a beautiful city. Talk about the most beautiful place you have seen.
Wednesday	**Read Luke 1:1-4** Luke begins his Gospel. How would you start your story about Jesus?
Thursday	**Read Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19** God will restore Israel. Lay your hand on someone else's shoulder. How does it make you feel to know that God lays God's hand on you to protect and guide you?
Friday	**Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18** Paul instructs the believers how to live. Go out of your way to do something loving for one family member or friend this week.
Saturday	**Read Matthew 24:15-31** Be aware of false prophets. Draw a picture of what you think Jesus' return will look like.

Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
Show your love by serving others.

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