food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me."

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

While inaugurating the kingdom of God, Jesus taught the people. His voice is clear, not ambiguous; it is a voice of love and not of condemnation, of hope and not of desperation, of invitation to repentance and not of rejection of the sinner: this is everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning. He lost no opportunity to teach the people: at the banks of the Sea of Galilee, in the synagogues, on the mountain, in the boat and from the boat, in the temple, during journeys, while working miracles, during dinners, at the unjust proceeding before Pontius Pilate, and even at the cross... Jesus, who took on himself the pains and sorrows of humanity, especially on the cross, loves us with a love that culminates in the offering of his life for us... The kingdom of Christ is a kingdom of love, harmony, respect for others, and forgiveness...
Cardinal Arinze (Magnificat 2023)

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.

Communion Antiphon

The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Prayer after Communion

Having received the food of immortality, we ask, O Lord, that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in his heavenly kingdom.

Christ The King

Year A

22nd November 2026

We have come to end of another year & like any year's end it is good to look back & give thanks. We have a great deal to thank St Matthew for, who, since last Advent has revealed the mystery of Christ to us all.

There is urgency in Matthews' Gospel. The Kingdom of God is near - change your lives today, now! We have the Sermon on the Mount & the many parables, teaching us that the law of God must be written in our hearts. The Word of God must find in our lives rich & good soil where it may take root & produce the fruits of peace, gentleness, mercy, justice, concern for others.

This is summarised in today's parable, set just before Jesus' passion telling of the end times... The king will come & gather the righteous on his right, "Welcome into my kingdom, for I was hungry & you fed me; I was thirsty & you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me..." Only when we act like this can we truly and joyfully proclaim Jesus Christ is our King.

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.

Collect

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.

EZEKIEL 34: 11-12, 15-17

Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Ezekiel's ministry as a prophet was among the exiles in Babylon between 593 and 571 BC. Ezekiel was a member of a priestly family. He was married and was well educated with a wide knowledge of national and international affairs. In today's passage, we hear how the shepherds of Israel – their kings – had failed them. God, himself, we learn, will come to shepherd his people. He will search out the lost, and lead them to life. A prophecy fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ.

PSALM: 23(22):1-2a. 2b-3. 5. 6

Response: *The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul.
He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name.

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.

1 CORINTHIANS 15: 20-26. 28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

The First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians was written around 55AD. Corinth was a thriving Greek city & sea port. Paul addresses the many problems in the young church & seeks to answer questions. In today's short passage Paul reflects on the resurrection of Christ, and how it impacts on our lives, especially, on the lives of our departed brothers and sisters. Through rising from the dead, Christ, our leader and king has led us all into new life with the Father.

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

MATTHEW 25: 31-46

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me