

READINGS AND REFLECTION
FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING

A READING FROM THE PROPHET EZEKIEL 34: 11-12. 15-17

You, my flock, I will judge between sheep and sheep.

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness.

I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 22: 1-3, 5-6

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

Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

**A READING FROM THE ST PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS
CHAPTER 15: VERSES 20-26, 28**

He will hand over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way, the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him.

After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death.

When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.

Blessing on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David. Mk 11: 9-10
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A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 25:31-46

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats.

He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.
Then the King will say to those on his right hand,

*“Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage
the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.*

For I was hungry and you gave me food.

I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

I was a stranger and you made me welcome,

naked and you clothed me,

sick and you visited me,

in prison and you came to see me.”

Then the virtuous will say to him in reply,

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome;

naked and clothed you; sick or in prison and go to see you?”

The King will answer,

“I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this

to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.”

Next he will say to those on his left hand,

“Go away from me with your curse upon you,

to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you never gave me food.

I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink.

I was a stranger and you never made me welcome,

naked and you never clothed me,

sick and in prison and you never visited me.”

Then it will be their turn to ask,

“Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty,

a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?”

*Then he will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to
one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me?”*

And they will go away to eternal punishment and the virtuous to eternal life.

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION

220 000 Australians replied to this Plenary Council question:

HOW IS GOD CALLING US TO BE A CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA?

Their replies were sorted into six themes:

1. Missionary and Evangelising

How can we lead and work together in new ways of proclaiming the Gospel and responding to pastoral needs?

2. Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal

How can clergy and lay people including women, people with diverse cultural backgrounds and people with disabilities share roles in the Church's ministries, responsibilities and governance?

3. Prayerful and Eucharistic

How can our preaching, our connecting Scripture to daily life, our prayer life and the wisdom of our indigenous and migrant communities help our participation in our Liturgies?

4. Humble, Healing and Merciful

How can we respond in outreach and prayer following the sexual abuse crisis, and the need of Catholics and others for relationship and reconciliation with the whole of creation?

5. A Joyful, Hope-filled and Servant Community

How can the goodness of many in the Church help us respond to the Gospels' calls to us to support people at risk?

6. Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform

May our prayer, communion with one another, our vocations and our governance and leadership reflect how we encounter God and experience a conversion of heart.

**Pope Francis calls for conversion and reform within the Church,
not just by looking at ourselves
but by responding to the needs of the marginalised and indeed of the whole of creation.**



Plenary Council 2021-22 is a chance for Catholics to listen to and to talk to one another and to God, and help shape the future of the Church in Australia.