

**What you did for the least ones you did for me!**

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17      Psalm 23:1-3, 5-6    1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28    Matthew 25:31-46

Ezekiel prophesies how the Lord will look after and take care of the faithful, those to whom the world is often not very kind. They will be rescued from darkness and will be pastured because the Lord will seek out the lost, bring back those who have strayed, and heal the sick, but the sleek and the strong will not receive mercy.

The psalmist describes the Lord as his Shepherd, the One who gives him repose, leads him to restful places, and guides him on right paths. The Lord supplies an overabundance and this is clearly seen by his foes and the psalmist believes that only goodness and kindness will follow him from now on.

Paul speaks to the Corinthians, his brothers and sisters in Christ, reminding them that Christ has been raised from the dead. Death once came through one man but now life comes through another and all who belong to Christ shall be brought to eternal life, each one in proper order. When the Son subjects all to himself and every sovereignty, power, and authority is destroyed, all will be handed to the Father so that God may be all in all.

Jesus tells his disciples of the future time when the Son of Man will come in glory. All the angels will be with him as he takes his glorious throne to judge the assembled nations. There will be a separation of the sheep from the goats; those who helped the needy in life will receive an eternal reward, while those who lived for themselves will receive eternal punishment.

The Father patiently waits for  
The Son to become the world's sole authority.  
The Holy Spirit reminds us that we are to do our part.



Today's Gospel speaks of the judgment of people, a valuable lesson reminding us that we too will be held accountable for our actions. While we live and wait we must be more observant and help those who are hurting. There are so many people in need and there are as many ways to lend a helping hand. Perhaps it is a thoughtful and kind word at the right time; or financial aid for a charity helping those in a war torn country; or a visit to someone sick at home or in the hospital. Be, in Jesus' words, a helpful person, and not a self-centered goat!

Jesus appeared on earth as our Divine Lord and Savior and the Leader of all humanity. To believe in his leadership is to adopt his ideals as our own, at all cost, and then to receive from the Leader the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit that makes the realization of the ideals possible. Jesus points to a three-fold ideal that we often come across in reading the scriptures, namely that in our daily toil we look prayerfully to our Heavenly Father; in the midst of our daily labors we never lose sight of our neighbor's needs; and build on a faith that looks to a future of eternal life.

The best testimonies in the world have come from men and women who have experienced the redeeming Spirit of Jesus Christ. Their experiences are sometimes distinct and triumphant, sometimes obscure and uncertain, but always redeeming in the end.