

[155]      **Thirty-Fourth or Last Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**CHRIST THE KING**

**A**

**FIRST READING**

The Lord will shepherd his flock.

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel      34:11-12, 14-16abce

**T**he Lord says this:

“I, the Lord God, will look for my people  
and take care of them myself.

As a shepherd looks for sheep that have wandered away,  
I will search for my scattered people.

I will rescue them from all the places where they went  
on that dark and gloomy day.”

“My people will be like sheep grazing and resting  
in good pastures and on Israel’s mountains.

I, the Lord All-Powerful, will lead them there and watch over them.”

“I will look for the lost sheep  
and bring back the ones that have wandered off.

If any are hurt,  
I will bandage their wounds.

If any are weak,  
I will help them.

I will take good care of my people!”

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

23:1-2ab, 2c-3, 5-6

*R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

You, Lord, are my shepherd.

I will never be in need.

You let me rest in fields  
of green grass.

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

You lead me to streams

of peaceful water,

and you refresh my life.  
You are true to your name,  
and you lead me  
along the right paths.

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

You treat me to a feast,  
while my enemies watch.  
You honor me as your guest,  
and you fill my cup  
until it overflows.  
Your kindness and love  
will always be with me  
each day of my life,  
and I will live forever  
in your house, Lord.

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

## **SECOND READING**

Christ will hand over the kingdom to God the Father.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-24a

**B**rothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised to life!  
And he makes us certain  
that others will also be raised to life.

Just as we will die because of Adam,  
we will be raised to life because of Christ.  
Adam brought death to all of us,  
and Christ will bring life to all of us.

But we must each wait our turn.  
Christ was the first to be raised to life,  
and his people will be raised to life when he returns.  
Then after Christ has destroyed all powers and forces,  
the end will come.

The word of the Lord.

## ALLELUIA

Mark 11:9, 10

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Blessed is the one who inherits the kingdom of David our father;  
blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

The Son of Man will sit upon his seat of glory  
and he will separate all into two groups.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 25:31-46

**J**esus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all of his angels,  
he will sit on his royal throne.”

“The people of all nations will be brought before him,  
and he will separate them,  
as shepherds separate their sheep from their goats.”

“He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.  
Then the king will say to those on his right,  
‘My father has blessed you!  
Come and receive the kingdom that was prepared for you  
before the world was created.

When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat,  
and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink.

When I was a stranger, you welcomed me,  
and when I was naked, you gave me clothes to wear.

When I was sick, you took care of me,  
and when I was in jail, you visited me.”

“Then the ones who pleased the Lord will ask,  
‘When did we give you something to eat or drink?  
When did we welcome you as a stranger or give you clothes to wear  
or visit you while you were sick or in jail?’”

“The king will answer,  
‘Whenever you did it for any of my people,  
no matter how unimportant they seemed,  
you did it for me.’”

“Then the king will say to those on his left,  
‘Get away from me!  
You are under God’s curse.  
Go into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels!  
I was hungry, but you did not give me anything to eat,  
and I was thirsty, but you did not give me anything to drink.  
I was a stranger, but you did not welcome me,  
and I was naked, but you did not give me any clothes to wear.  
I was sick and in jail, but you did not take care of me.’”

“Then the people will ask,  
‘Lord, when did we fail to help you when you were hungry or thirsty  
or a stranger or naked or sick or in jail?’”

“The king will say to them,  
‘Whenever you failed to help any of my people,  
no matter how unimportant they seemed,  
you failed to do it for me.’”

Then Jesus said, “Those people will be punished forever.  
But the ones who pleased God will have eternal life.”

The gospel of the Lord.



Has the Beast done anything to Gaston or the villagers to make them want to kill him? Has he harmed them or bothered them at all? Why do they want to kill him? There was a line in the song that may be a clue. It said, " We don't like what we don't understand, in fact it scares us." Have you ever had that experience when someone who was harmless scared you because of the way they looked or acted? Maybe a poor person who was dirty or a handicapped person who did not look or act like us? Why is it hard to be nice to people who are different from us?

[Play Scene 21 "Transformation." Stop it when the characters begin to turn human again.  
Approx. 2 min. 45 seconds]

Who does the Beast turn into? Do you think that Belle knew all along that inside the Beast was the Prince? Is that why she was nice to him? Do you think the villagers would have tried to kill him if they had known he was the Prince? How are they like the goats in the Gospel?

Belle is like the sheep in today's Gospel because she cares for the Beast even though he looks different, acts different and is mean to her. She didn't know he was the Prince. She did it because she is a loving person. Jesus is asking us to be like the sheep and like Belle. We are to care for EVERYONE no matter how they look or act because Jesus is inside every person. He is inside the nicest, cutest people as well as the people who are not always nice, who are not the cutest or the best athletes as well as the people who are very different from us including people in other countries, people without money, and people who have different abilities. He is in EVERYONE!

This week try to remember that EVERY person you see has Jesus inside of them and treat them the way that you would treat Jesus.