

34th Sunday Year A: Solemnity of Christ the King

Jesus The King and The Shepherd

Today is the feast of Christ the King and the last Sunday of Year A. Next Sunday, we begin the new liturgical season, Year B, with the season of Advent in preparation for Christmas. This Sunday, we recognize, honor, and worship Christ, the founder, and the savior, as the king of the universe. He is not a king in the earthly sense of it but the king who came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for us (Matthew 20:28), which St. Paul describes very well in our 2nd reading today.

Through the Prophet Ezekiel in the first reading, God consoled and gave hope to the people of Israel while in exile in Babylon. He promised them that they would return to their own land as the chosen people, and he will be their ruler. He will rule them mercifully, kindly, and justly. The image of the sheep and shepherd which God used to describe this relationship is the same image Christ used to describe Himself as a Good Shepherd, who came that we might have life and have it in abundance (John 10:10).

The gospel reminds us that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. Hence, we have to recognize the image of God in each other, which means that whatever we do to others, we do the same to Christ (God). As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving Week, let us not forget the poor and the less-privileged in our midst being mindful always, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me.”