



**WORD**

**FIRST READING**

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

**Pew Bible OT p. 895**

*Since Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

**Pew Bible NT p. 204**

*In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord both of the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

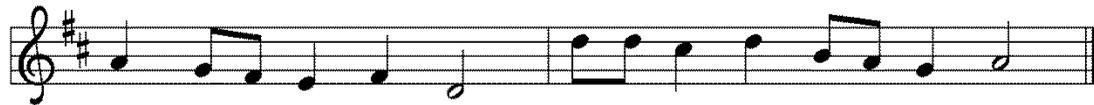
Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *(please stand)*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

**Matthew 25:31-46**

**Pew Bible NT p. 29**

*Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.** *(please be seated)*

**SERMON**

Pastor Marcia

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"O Christ, What Can It Mean for Us"**

**ELW #431**

**APOSTLES' CREED** *(please stand)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.** *(please be seated)*

**OFFERING**

*The children are welcome to come forward and place their offerings in the "For Children Everywhere" box.*

**OFFERING HYMN**

**"We Give Thee but Thine Own"**

**ELW #686**

**OFFERING PRAYER** *(please stand)*

Creator God, you made everything, and you provide for every need.  
Fill us with your love; let that love flow through us to others; and join us  
to the saints before us in a holy and boundless communion; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Welcoming God’s reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every  
time and place.

*After each petition:* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BENEDICTION**

The love of God surround you;  
the grace of Christ release you;  
and the Holy Spirit be your guide and strength,  
now and forevermore.  
**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to serve the Lord.  
**We will! Thanks be to God!**

**SENDING HYMN**

**“Soon and Very Soon”**

**ELW #489**

**POSTLUDE**

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**LEADING OUR WORSHIP:**

- Preaching: Pastor Marcia Sylvester
- Worship Assistant: Kathy Heffernan
- Pianist: Sue Gates
- Lector: Tammy Paulsen
- Deacon: Jeff Carlson
- Acolyte: Masyn Schutter
- Power Point: Sandra Anderson
- Altar Guild Co-Chairs: Karen Dahme  
Susan Hook
- Sound System: Zach Anderson
- Van Driver: Jerold Gehring
- Counters: Gene\Jan Reich  
Gladys Melcher – Elsie Geffre
- Coffee Hosts: Zion Fellowship Committee
- Ushers: Ron Kost – Lyle Chapin

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

*A brief silence.*

Almighty God, your merciful rule encompasses all the world. As we gather for worship in safety, we pray for places where the church is persecuted. Watch over your people as they witness to your good news. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give bountiful pastures, safety, and health to herds, livestock, and all animals. May our care for all of your creation reflect your shepherding love for all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for international organizations that shine your light in places of strife (*especially*). Lead relief and aid workers, leaders and volunteers to seek the lost and provide safety. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, abused, or ill (*especially*). Give wisdom to counselors, doctors, nurses, and all in professions that provide healing. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Shepherd your churches to welcome the stranger and immigrant in our midst. Call all your people to welcome, clothe, feed, and visit those in need just as you have provided for the lost and despairing throughout the ages. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Give us the hope to which you call us, our glorious inheritance with all your saints. Enrich our lives with the faith and vision of those saints who have died (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24**

*Since Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the Lord will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The Lord will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.*

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. <sup>16</sup>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, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**Ephesians 1:15-23**

**Pew Bible NT**

*In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord both of the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

<sup>15</sup>I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you

may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,<sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.<sup>20</sup> God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,<sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.<sup>22</sup> And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,<sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46**

*Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:]<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.<sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,<sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.<sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;<sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,<sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’<sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?<sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?<sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’<sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’<sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;<sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,<sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’<sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’<sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’<sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”