FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for
my sheep and will sort them out. 12As shepherds
sort out their flocks when they are among scat-
tered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will res-
cue them from all the places to which they have
been scattered on a day of clouds and thick dark-
ness. 13I will bring them out from the peoples
and gather them from the countries and 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. 14I 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.
15I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and
I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16I
will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays,
and I will bind up the injured, and I will strength-
en the weak, but the fat and the strong I will de-
stroy. I will feed them with justice.

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

23I will set up over them one shepherd, my ser-
vant David, and he shall feed them; he shall feed
them and be their shepherd. 24And I the LORD
will be their God, and my servant David shall be
prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

Psalm 95:1-7a

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

[not printed]

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "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.
32All the nations will be gathered before him,
and he will separate people one from another as
a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,
33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and
the goats at the left. 34Then the king will say
to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are
blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom pre-
pared for you from the foundation of the world,
35for 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, 36I was naked
and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took
care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'
37Then 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?
38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and
welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?
39And when was it that we saw you sick or in pris-
on and visited you?' 40And the king will answer
them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one
of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine,
you did it to me.' 41Then he will say to those at his
left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me
into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and
his angels, 42for I was hungry and you gave me no
food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to
drink, 43I 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.' 44Then
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?'
45Then 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.' 46And these will go away
into eternal punishment but the righteous into
eternal life."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37.

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