

# **Your Lourdes Sunday Liturgy at Home**

## **The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

November 22, 2020 – The Last Sunday of the Church Year

“The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back,  
the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal...”  
– Ezekiel 34:16

‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,  
or thirsty and give you drink?...’  
– Matthew 25:37

The Prophet Ezekiel reports that God promises us: “I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark” (34:12). Church, we are scattered and the times are cloudy and dark, and we need God’s rescue.

God promises us rescue, and then turns the tables and calls us to become rescuers ourselves. And in our acts of rescue, we will see the face of Jesus: “whatever you did for one of the least..., you did for me’ (Matthew 25:40).

Ezekiel, who was the prophet to Jewish refugees in Babylonia, depicts God as a shepherd gathering the scattered sheep. God is the seeker of strays, the injured, the sick. God also knows how to shepherd the sleek and strong. In this reading we already see reference to judgment between the rams and goats.

Psalms 23 presents shepherding as the act of accompaniment. God participates in the community as its members bear each other up in times of evil and destruction. The psalmist describes God’s role, showing how accompaniment becomes deliverance.

For Matthew, the shepherd sorts out those who opted for the kingdom and those who opted out — the sheep and the goats. The Gospels do not get much clearer in delineating the kind of relationships we are called to have, whether they are personal, political or economic.

When we profess a Christian faith, we profess that the dispossessed – the ones left out of the marketplace, the disposable ones – actually matter. The market may not have a place for their particular skills, but God finds them invaluable.

Furthermore, according to Matthew, the closest we can come to a transformative face-to-face encounter with Jesus is to be fully present to the poor and marginalized. Pope Francis calls this connection with the disenfranchised, “living with the earthy smell of the sheep.”

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**Praise and Worship:** “When I Rose This Morning” sung by The Mississippi Mass Choir:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXTk46lfDTg&list=PLHlxVqJ3diTQw7qjexZWJs6TbwuBVKohk>

**Prelude:** Center yourselves first by singing along with the Richard Smallwood Singers’ version of “Come By Here”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=baB-WzeOPF4>

Then, sing along with the words on the video screen for “Crown Him with Many Crowns”:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7OCs0d\\_4vM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7OCs0d_4vM)

**Leader:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All:** And with your spirit.

### **Penitential Act**

Lord Jesus, you are the servant king who dies for his people:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the good king who defends the lives of the poor:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you command us to imitate you in all things:

Lord, have mercy.

## Opening Prayer

Almighty God,<sup>[L][SEP]</sup>  
you have conferred upon Christ Jesus sovereignty  
over every age and nation. Direct us, in the love of Christ,<sup>[L][SEP]</sup>  
to care for the least of his brothers and sisters,  
that we may be subject to his dominion,<sup>[L][SEP]</sup>  
and receive the inheritance of your kingdom.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,<sup>[L][SEP]</sup>  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God forever and ever. Let the church say, Amen.

Listen to “Wonderful is Your Name” by Hezekiah Walker:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4v4CXFI6TiQ>  
Then move on to this Sunday’s readings:

### **Readings for November 22, 2020, The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

#### **1st Reading – Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17**

<sup>11</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will look after and tend my sheep.

<sup>12</sup> As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark.

<sup>15</sup> I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD.

<sup>16</sup> The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly.

<sup>17</sup> As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.

The Word of the Lord.....Thanks be to God.

#### **Responsorial Psalm – 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6**

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

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.<sup>[L][SEP]</sup>

<sup>2AB</sup> In verdant pastures he gives me repose.<sup>[L][SEP]</sup>

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

2C Beside restful waters he leads me;

3 he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths

for his name's sake.

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

5 You spread the table before me

in the sight of my foes;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

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

6 Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

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

### **2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28**

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

22 For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,

23 but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;

24 then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power.

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

28 When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord.....Thanks be to God.

### **Gospel – Matthew 25:31-46**

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne,

and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will

separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.<sup>33</sup> He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who 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 drink, a stranger and you welcomed me,

<sup>36</sup> naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

<sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

<sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?

<sup>39</sup> When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you’

<sup>40</sup> And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

<sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, 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 no drink,

<sup>43</sup> a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’

<sup>44</sup> Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’

<sup>45</sup> He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’

<sup>46</sup> And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

The Gospel of the Lord.....Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Reflection Prompts:**

First, sing along with “I Give Myself Away” sung by William McDowell:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gik2CHG48fs>

- How does our faith community inspire and accomplish direct service to the hungry, thirsty, immigrant, homeless, trafficked, abandoned, naked, sick, and imprisoned?

- How does our faith community work for basic, systemic change to benefit those who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick and incarcerated?
- Share any experience you have had of seeing Jesus in your interactions with the hungry, homeless, sick, incarcerated or anyone in great need.

### **Meditation Prompts:**

First, begin your meditation by listening to W. Clifford Petty with the Montgomery, Alabama Resurrection Choir present Dr. King’s favorite song – “If I Can Help Somebody”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T85n2Wt1h4>

- Imagine Jesus showing you how to be a compassionate shepherd like himself.
- As the compassionate Divine Shepherd to help you release any images you have of God as a stern, punishing, vengeful king.

Then move into this week’s prayers of the faithful.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS – November 22, 2020  
**The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
 King of the Universe**

**Presider:** As we conclude our celebration of Black Catholic History month, dear God, you know that we have come over a way that with tears has been watered. We pray for healing and hope.

### **Worship Leader**

1. For all of us Christians, who will be judged on our care for the least among us, that we see the vulnerable and be of service.  
 We pray: **Send us, O God.** (RESPOND: **Send us, O God.**)
  
2. For Our Lady of Lourdes parish as we observe our 108<sup>th</sup> anniversary today, we ask for vision and strength as grieve our recent losses and endure our time apart from one another.  
 We pray: **Send us, O God.**

3. For the ancestors who formed Our Lady of Lourdes community a century ago, may we too be able to “sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.” We pray: **Send us, O God.**
4. For the artists of the Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts Movement who helped shape a dream of freedom. We pray: **Send us, O God.**
5. For our dream for a new church and renovated facilities, that we will be able to marshal the ingenuity and resources to achieve them. We pray: **Send us, O God.**
6. For clarity and direction in the campaign to cure and prevent the corona virus. We pray: **Send us, O God.**
7. For those in this community whose needs have been overlooked or are unknown. We pray: **Send us, O God.**
8. For all who seek healing from substance use disorders and mental health issues, that they find help and mutual support. We pray: **Send us, O God.**
9. For displaced persons, refugees, and all driven from their homes or countries, that they be welcomed and included. We pray: **Send us, O God.**
10. For our Stephen Ministry, its leaders, and all Care Team members and receivers here at Lourdes. We pray: **Send us, O God.**
11. For all our loved ones in the military and their families, that they be returned to us safely and experience a welcoming community. We pray: **Send us, O God.**
12. For all those who are separated from us by infirmity, especially those listed in our bulletin, and for all those living with HIV and AIDS, that they know our community’s care for them. We pray: **Send us, O God.**

**13.** For all the dead, that they see God face to face, especially for the Cherry Family as they mourn the father, for Dolores Homely and for Kenneth W. Louis for whom this Mass is being celebrated. We pray: **Send us, O God.**

14. Please share any intention you have [PAUSE.....] as well as all our own needs. We pray: **Send us, O God.**

**Presider:** God, our protector and judge, we thank you for sending your Son to show us who you are and who we are called to be. Give us strength and courage to care for the least among us. We humbly ask this in Jesus' name. LET THE CHURCH SAY – AMEN!

Sing or recite “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Then, behold “Jesus, You Brought Me All the Way”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5g77k7X0ZsE>

### **Closing Prayer**

Almighty and eternal God,  
you chose to restore all things in Christ your Son,  
who is king of heaven and earth.

Grant that all creation, set free  
from the bondage of sin and death,  
may offer homage to your majesty  
and join in singing your eternal praise.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

Let the Church say.....AMEN!

### **Closing Song**

“This is the Day” by Leon Roberts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK3XmctnEmE>