

## NEXT STEP: STUDY &amp; SHARE

## READINGS

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

*We are the people of God's pasture & the sheep of God's hand. (v7)*

Ephesians 1:15-23

The reign of Christ

Matthew 25:31-46

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of power & might, your Son shows us the way of service, & in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right & the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

## SERMON TEXT-Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, & 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, & 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 & 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 & you gave me food, I was thirsty & you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger & you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked & you gave me clothing, I was sick & you took care of me, I was in prison & you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry & gave you food, or thirsty & gave you something to drink?’ <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger & welcomed you, or naked & gave you clothing?’ <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison & 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 & his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry & you gave me no food, I was thirsty & you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger & you did not welcome me, naked & you did not give me clothing, sick & in prison & 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, & 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.”

## LISTENING TO . . .

**GOD-** *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Notice how the story unfolds. First, the sheep & goats are separated, next the sheep's blessing is announced, then their works are described, finally they are surprised at their righteous works. What does the Old Testament tell us about such vindication? *See Psalms 17:2, 24:5, 26:1, 35:24-27, 37:6, 43:1; 54:1, 98:2, 103:6, 135:14; Isaiah 34:8, 58:8, 61:1-2; Jeremiah 51:10; Joel 2:23; Micah 7:9-10*
2. What do *Matthew 1:23, 18:20, & 28:20* add to vv40, 45? *See also Psalm 46:11; Proverbs 19:17; John 1:14*

**EACH OTHER-** *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What comfort do you find in Judgment Day, a.k.a. the “Day of the Lord” or the “Day of Doom”? *See Small\* & Large Catechisms\*: Creed II; Revelation 19:6-9, 20:11-21:8, 22:10-17 \*available [bookofconcord.org](http://bookofconcord.org)*
4. What unsettles you about “the account we must one day give to Jesus Christ our Lord” (LBW prayer #183 p44)? What do you need to confess & repent of (*1 John 1:8-10*)? If you are particularly troubled by something, make an appointment with your Pastor (*John 20:21-23; Matthew 16:19*). *See SC\* & LC\*: Confession/Office of the Keys (aka 1529 Exhortation to Confession); James 5:16*

**NEIGHBORS-** *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Continuing from #3 & 4, the world around us hates the idea that it will be judged (& found guilty) against God's eternal & objective law. Review *Romans 1*. When your works are judged, what makes them good? *See Psalms 63:7, 91:4; Matthew 12:33; Luke 6:44, 13:34; John 3:14-21, 15:1-11; Romans 3:22-28, 8:30, 10:9-10, 13:12-14; Galatians 3:25-27; Ephesians 2:5, 8-10, 5:8-14a; Hebrews 13:20-21; Apology\* (Defense) of the Augsburg Confession V:250-251*
6. Christians have expected Jesus' return ever since his Ascension. What does God's seeming delay mean practically? *See Luke 2:28-32; Acts 1:8, 13:47; Romans 10:10-20; 1 Timothy 2:4, 4:10; 2 Peter 3:9*

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Last Sunday after Pentecost | Festival of Christ the King

11.26.23

Series: Judgment

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

It's You or Them

*God judges the living & dead, for life & punishment*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Abraham (v25)

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-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. (*Mark 11:9*)

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