

**22 NOVEMBER 2020**

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

**OPENING HYMN**

Come into his presence with thanksgiving in your heart,  
And give him praise. -2

Come into his presence with thanksgiving in your heart,  
Your voices raise. - 2

**Give glory and honour and power unto him  
Jesus, the name above all names. (2)**

*(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty ever-living God, whose will is to restore all things in Your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render Your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim Your praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**FIRST READING:** Ezk 34:11-12, 15-17

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 123:1-3, 5-6

**Our Response is:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives my repose. **R/**

Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.  
He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name. **R/**

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. **R/**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever. **R/**

**SECOND READING:** 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28

**GOSPEL:** Mt 25:31-46

### **REFLECTION:**

Very often, we are very comfortable helping those who are far away from us, for example those suffering during the Pandemic, a famine etc... We will do well if we realize that we are called to be a neighbour and help those who are close to us. We are all made in the image and likeness of Christ. Whenever a human need arises, Christ is there and we are called to respond as his disciples.

Ezekiel, in the first reading, portrays a shepherd God who looks after, nurtures and cares for His sheep. He will also look for the lost one, the strayed, wounded sheep. He will strengthen those who are weak and sick. Just as God cares for us, likewise we are called to love and care for others. Psalm 23 reveals what God is doing and what He has already done for us. We need to be doing the same for others. When and where have I seen God's shepherding hand in my life? **Pause**

To be Christ's faithful disciples, we must personally know who Jesus is. We must listen to what he teaches us and be ready to stand guard for the teachings of the church. In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that we will be judged according to how we have treated others. Did we show the same care, kindness, love and concern for others as God has shown us? We are to be Christ-like and a neighbour to all. Growth is discipleship and Christian maturity is measured by the extent to which we look upon the other as Christ, loving and doing for that person as Christ would do. Our own faithful and fruitful discipleship rests on knowing and being faithful to Christ till the end. Am I open to the Spirit of God as he leads me onward to a new Christ-like identity and a way of relating to others? Am I willing to follow? **Pause**

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Leader:** Trusting in God who blesses us with His abundance of graces, let us bring our prayers before Him.

**Our response is: Heavenly Father, hear our prayer**

We pray for all the members of the Church, that we may show wisdom and compassion to all. May we also show care and concern for the poor; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those who work for law enforcement agencies in the world, that they may protect and care for the people they serve. May God also protect them and their families; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, unclothed, ill etc, that they may be received by the Community as Christ would receive them; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those baptised, that like Christ our King, we may show care and concern for each other; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

**Leader:** Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus to teach us how to love and care for others. Strengthen us on our journey that we may be Christ-like to all those we meet and help build Your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:  
*(All say the Lord's Prayer together)* Our Father...

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

O Lord, as we celebrate Your Word through which Your Son by His redemptive work reconciled the whole human race to You, we humbly pray, that Your Son himself may bestow on all nations the gifts of unity and peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS**

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN**

**Lord, make me like you,**

**Please, make me like you.**

**You are a servant, make me one too.**

**O Lord, won't you give me, your strength every day**

**To build a community, to follow your way.**

You call me your Master and Lord, so I am.

See, I have washed your feet

To set an example for all of you

Of service and of love.

*Commission For Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Bombay*