



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

LITURGY OF THE WORD

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

HYMN

Whatsoever You Do

Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me.

When I was hungry, you gave me to eat;

When I was thirsty, you gave me to drink.

Now enter into the home of my Father.

Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me.

INTRODUCTION

All sign themselves with the sign of the cross saying, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and home with peace.
Blessed be God for ever.

All respond: Blessed be God for ever.

Sing or recite the Gloria together:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,**

**you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray,

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.

READINGS

It is encouraged that someone other than the leader should proclaim the readings of the day from a Bible. Otherwise, daily readings may be found at usccb.org/bible/readings, and audio recordings of the daily readings may be found at usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm.

First reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6

Refrain (all together): **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose.

Refrain (all together): **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Refrain (all together): **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Refrain (all together): **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

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.

Refrain (all together): **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel (All stand for the reading of the Gospel. A layperson omits the greeting, “The Lord be with you” and proceeds to “A reading from the holy Gospel According to”): Matthew 25:31-46

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

This week we have a reflection from Fr. John Okoro, pastor of St. Ambrose (Morganfield), St. Francis Borgia (Sturgis), and St. William (Marion) parishes:

The annual celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King marks the end of the Liturgical year. All through the Liturgical year (A), we have had 52 Sundays, with each giving us different and great words of life. Today’s feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to awaken in the minds of Christians, the need to fight the dangerous influence of secularism. Humanity was called to once more choose and submit to the authority of Jesus Christ as a way of enthroning lasting peace in the world. When the Israelites chose Saul as their own king (1 Samuel 8:6), with the belief that he was going to fix their problems, and of course rejected the sovereignty of God, they paid the price. Humanity once more got the call to choose the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6).

In our first reading today, the prophet Ezekiel speaks of God as shepherd who continuously cares for His people: “I am going to look after my flock myself...I shall be a true shepherd to them...” One thing that is very remarkable about this reading is that the personal pronoun “I” appears nine times, which is indicative of the fact to God’s personal interest in His flock. This is also to show His resolve to fulfill His promises in Jesus Christ and in our time. God’s promises are real and true. He is a faithful king. God is not man that he should speak falsely, nor human that he should change his mind. Is he one to speak and not act, to decree and not fulfill (Numbers 23:19)? Our God is always reliable.

The Prophet still speaking in God’s name says: “The sleek and strong I will destroy” (Ezekiel 34:16). There are many today who think they are smart and who live in illusion, forgetting that the only source of strength in this life is Jesus Christ. The illusions need to be destroyed so that the so called “sleek and strong” can form a covenant with God. We must rely on God. No human is strong to herself or himself.

In our second reading, St. Paul reminds us of the kingship of Jesus Christ and His reign. He will continue His reign until he conquers death our last enemy. All the freedom that you and I enjoy today is as a result of His defeat of Satan and sin through His death. As a way of showing gratitude to Him, we need to be part of His kingdom and we owe Him our daily homage and total resignation to His will.

Today’s Gospel from St. Matthew is described by some scholars as “The Ten Commandments of the New Testament” It spells out the dos and don’ts of Christian life and tells us that our eternal salvation depends on how we treat the less fortunate of the society. St. Matthew goes on to tell us that the way we treat others, is the way we treat Jesus Himself. This could be referred to as the ABCs of knowing Jesus Christ and what matters to Him.

Today's celebration of Christ the King will make sense if we allow Jesus Christ to reign in our hearts and lives, and by so doing, reign in our world. He is always longing to come into our lives. He daily says to us: "Behold I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20) May His Goodness and Mercy follow us all the days our lives. And may we always live as he wants us to live. AMEN.

Additionally, you can also find video reflections from the USCCB on the readings here:
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/>.

Observe a period of silence for reflection on the Word of God. You may want to ask the following questions:

What word or phrase is stirring in your heart?
How can you apply this message to your daily life?

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us give glory to the great God, presenting our needs with trust and confidence.

You or members of your family can be invited to speak out their intercessions, to which all reply, "Lord, hear our prayer." It would be good to include a prayer for the end of the coronavirus pandemic and a return to public Sunday Eucharist.

Leader: God of infinite mercy, hear the prayers of your people — who give praise for all the good things that come from you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response: Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Make a prayer of thanksgiving. This can be your own personal prayer of thanksgiving, a canticle of praise from scripture, or you may choose one of the following Psalms: Psalm 100; Psalm 113; Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29; Psalm 136; Psalm 150

CONCLUDING RITE

In solidarity with our diocese, here you could include Pope Francis' prayer to Mary for protection against the coronavirus found at the beginning of the *Diocese of Owensboro Prayer Companion*.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All sign themselves with the cross.

Response: Amen

As an option here, you could add "Let us offer each other the sign of peace," extending a sign of Christ's peace to your loved ones by way of a hug, kiss, or whatever would be most appropriate for your situation.

HYMN

Whatsoever You Do

Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me.

When I was homeless, you opened your door;

When I was naked, you gave me your coat.

Now enter into the home of my Father.

Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me.

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