## Readings for November 22

## First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

*Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.*

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort
them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among
scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the
places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick
darkness. 13 I 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. 14 I 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. 15 I myself will
be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord
GOD. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up
the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will
destroy. I will feed them with justice.

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

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

## Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

*We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7)*

1 Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving**
**and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**
3 For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;**
**the heights of the hills are | also yours. R**
5 The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

6 **Come, let us worship | and bow down,**
**let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**
7a For the LORD | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. **R**

## Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

*In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.*

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the
saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I
remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come
to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may
perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of
his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable
greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his
great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from
the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far
above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name
that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has
put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for
the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

## Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

*Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "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. 32 All the
nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from
another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put
the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say
to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit
the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for 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, 36 I was naked and you gave
me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you
visited me.' 37 Then 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? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or
naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in
prison and visited you?' 40 And 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.’ 41 Then 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, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you
gave me nothing to drink, 43 I 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.’ 44 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 and did not take
care of you?’ 45 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.’ 46 And these
will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”