Last Sunday of the Church Year

Old Testament

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

11 “For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will
seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have
been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where
they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 And I will bring them out
from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own
land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited
places of the country. 14 I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of
Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich
pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my
sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost,
and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the
weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. . . .

20 “Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between
the fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at
all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, 22 I will rescue my flock;
they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. 23 And 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 am the Lord; I have spoken.”

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have
fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of
the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his
own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then
comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule
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. 27 For “God has put all things in
subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that
he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are subjected

to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Gospel

Matthew 25:31–46

31 [Jesus said:] “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him,
then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he
will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 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. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked
and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’
37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed
you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you,
or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And
the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my
brothers, you did it to me.’

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, 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 no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and
you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44 Then they also will
answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or
in prison, and did not minister to you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to
you, 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.”