

# **Pastor's Bible Class**

**November 22, 2020**

## **The Last Sunday of the Church Year**

### **Read Psalm 95:1-7a**

<sup>1</sup>Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

**let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

<sup>2</sup>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God,

**and a great King above all gods.**

<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the depths of the earth;

**the heights of the mountains are his also.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it,

**and his hands formed the dry land.**

<sup>6</sup>Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

**let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God,

**and we are the people of his pasture,**

**and the sheep of his hand.**

### **Read Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24.**

1. Who is the recipient of Ezekiel's prophecy in chapter 34? See verses 1-2.
2. How have the shepherds neglected their calling according to 34:2-6?
3. How does God propose to deal with the neglect of His sheep? See verse 11.
4. In verse 12 God mentions, "a day of clouds and thick darkness." What impact do these storms have on the sheep? What impact do the storms of life have on us?
5. On what basis will the sheep be judged?
6. In verse 23, God promises to provide a new shepherd for His people. With what language does He identify this shepherd? See II Samuel 7:11-16; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 11:1-2; Isaiah 42:1 and 53:1.

**Read Matthew 25:31-46.**

7. What context does Jesus establish for this parable in verse 31?
8. What activity will take place on that day?
9. What special designation is given to, “those on His right?”
10. What causes this “blessedness?” See Ephesians 1:3-4; Romans 3:3-5 and 5:1.
11. Luther once said, “Faith alone saves but faith is never alone.” How does that help us understand the list of good works outlined in verses 35 and 36?
12. How do the “righteous” answer the King? What does their answer tell us about good works done in faith?

**Note:** About this verse, Karl Stoeckhardt writes, “The Lord remembers only the good works of the believers, although they did many things in their lifetime which they should not have done, because through faith they have forgiveness of sins, and what God forgives, He remembers no more, it is eternally forgiven.”

13. According to verse 41, for what purpose was the “eternal fire” prepared?
14. Based on these two texts, to what can the rejection of the needy among us ultimately lead? Why?
15. How is this text both convicting and comforting?

**Devotional Thought (from *The Lutheran Study Bible*)**

“On the Last Day, Jesus will separate true believers from hypocrites and those who reject Him. The faithful will be vindicated and welcomed into heaven, while unbelievers will be condemned. Having received forgiveness through faith in Christ, God’s flock eagerly await the day on which they shall be publicly vindicated and receive eternal life” (TLSB, 1640).

**Prayer**

Grant us a faith that perseveres to the end, O Lord. Move us by Your Spirit, that our good works continually glorify You and benefit our neighbors. Amen.