

PROPER 29A

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 & Psalm 100 OR Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 & Psalm 95:1-7a
AND
Ephesians 1:15-23 & Matthew 25:31-46

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**REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

1. Which 1-2 verses here most closely describe your condition this week?
2. How would the relationship between sheep and shepherd fit into our challenges now?
3. Why do the Psalms present "shouting for joy" as a good and necessary thing? What difference does it make when this happens or not?
4. What do the "spirit of wisdom and revelation (NRSV) in Ephesians 1 look like to you? What does it do?
5. What do you glean from these readings that will help you now?
6. When have you seen Jesus in the "least of these"? How did they look?
7. To what is God calling you this week?
8. What is your prayer now in these difficult days?

**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24** <sup>11</sup> The LORD God proclaims: **I myself will search for my flock and seek them out.** <sup>12</sup> As a shepherd seeks out the flock when some in the flock have been scattered, so will I seek out my flock. **I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered during the time of clouds and thick darkness.** <sup>13</sup> I will gather and lead them out from the countries and peoples, and I will bring them to their own fertile land. I will feed them on Israel's highlands, along the riverbeds, and in all the inhabited places. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them in good pasture, and their sheepfold will be there, on Israel's lofty highlands. On Israel's highlands, they will lie down in a secure fold and feed on green pastures. **<sup>15</sup> I myself will feed my flock and make them lie down.** This is what the LORD God says. **<sup>16</sup> I will seek out the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the wounded, and strengthen the weak. But the fat and the strong I will destroy, because I will tend my sheep with justice.** <sup>20</sup> So the Lord God proclaims to them: I will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup> You shove with shoulder and flank, and with your horns you ram all the weak sheep until you've scattered them outside. **<sup>22</sup> But I will rescue my flock so that they will never again be prey. I will even judge between the sheep!** <sup>23</sup> I will appoint for them a single shepherd, and he will feed them. My servant David will feed them. He will be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup> I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be their prince. I, the Lord, have spoken

**Psalm 95:** *Venite, exultemus*

- 1 Come, let us sing to the Holy One; \*  
**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 with psalms.

3 For you, O God, are a great God, \* you are great above all gods.  
4 In your hand are the caverns of the earth, & the heights of the hills are yours also.  
5 The sea is yours, for you made it, \* and your hands have molded the dry land.  
6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before God our Maker.  
7 For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. \* Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

### **Ephesians 1:15-23** J.B. Phillips New Testament

15-19 Since, then, I heard of this faith of yours in the Lord Jesus and the practical way in which you are expressing it towards fellow-Christians, I thank God continually for you and I never give up praying for you; and this is my prayer. That God, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ and the all-glorious Father, will give you spiritual wisdom and the insight to know more of him; that you may receive that inner illumination of the spirit which will make you realise how great is the hope to which he is calling you—the magnificence and splendor of the inheritance promised to Christians—and how tremendous is the power available to us who believe in God.

20-21 That power is the same divine power which was demonstrated in Christ when he raised him from the dead and gave him the place of supreme honor in Heaven—a place that is infinitely superior to any conceivable command, authority, power or control, and which carries with it a name far beyond any name that could ever be used in this world or the world to come.

22-23 God has placed everything under the power of Christ and has set him up as head of everything for the Church. for the Church is his body, and in that body lives fully the one who fills the whole wide universe.

### **Mateo 25:31-46** La Biblia de las Américas

31 Pero cuando el Hijo del Hombre venga en su gloria, y todos los ángeles con Él, entonces se sentará en el trono de su gloria; 32 y serán reunidas delante de Él todas las naciones; y separará a unos de otros, como el pastor separa las ovejas de los cabritos. 33 Y pondrá las ovejas a su derecha y los cabritos a su izquierda. 34 Entonces el Rey dirá a los de su derecha: «Venid, benditos de mi Padre, heredad el reino preparado para vosotros desde la fundación del mundo. 35 Porque tuve hambre, y me disteis de comer; tuve sed, y me disteis de beber; fui forastero, y me recibisteis; 36 estaba desnudo, y me vestisteis; enfermo, y me visitasteis; en la cárcel, y vinisteis a mí».

37 Entonces los justos le responderán, diciendo: «Señor, ¿cuándo te vimos hambriento, y te dimos de comer, o sediento, y te dimos de beber? 38 ¿Y cuándo te vimos como forastero, y te recibimos, o desnudo, y te vestimos? 39 ¿Y cuándo te vimos enfermo, o en la cárcel, y vinimos a ti?».

40 Respondiendo el Rey, les dirá: «En verdad os digo que en cuanto lo hicisteis a uno de estos hermanos míos, aun a los más pequeños, a mí lo hicisteis».

41 Entonces dirá también a los de su izquierda: «Apartaos de mí, malditos, al fuego eterno que ha sido preparado para el diablo y sus ángeles. 42 Porque tuve hambre, y no me disteis de comer, tuve sed, y no me disteis de beber; 43 fui forastero, y no me recibisteis; estaba desnudo, y no me vestisteis; enfermo, y en la cárcel, y no me visitasteis». 44 Entonces ellos también responderán, diciendo: «Señor, ¿cuándo te vimos hambriento, o sediento, o como forastero, o desnudo, o enfermo, o en la cárcel, y no te servimos?». 45 Él entonces les responderá, diciendo: «En verdad os digo que en cuanto no lo hicisteis a uno de los más pequeños de estos, tampoco a mí lo hicisteis». 46 Y estos irán al castigo eterno, pero los justos a la vida eterna.