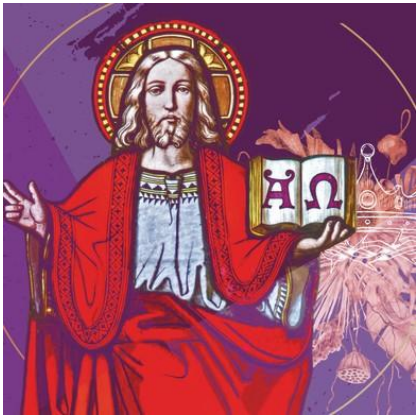
The King we Almost Missed

Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17 · Psalm 23 · 1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 28
Matthew 25:31–46



When we imagine Christ as King, we may picture a throne, a crown, and the splendour of heaven. Yet in today's Gospel, Jesus offers a surprising image of his kingdom. He identifies himself with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, and the prisoner. The King of the universe comes to us without the appearance of royalty, often hidden in people we might otherwise overlook.

We may spend our lives searching for God in extraordinary places while failing to recognize him in the ordinary needs of others. What makes this Gospel particularly challenging is that neither group recognizes Jesus in those they encountered. Both ask, "Lord, when was it that we saw you?" The difference lies not in what they knew, but in how they loved. A meal offered, a stranger welcomed, a lonely person visited—these become encounters with Christ himself.

Our faith is not measured simply by how beautifully we speak of God, but by how generously we respond to the people before us. The King we hope to meet in heaven may already have crossed our path today.