Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Psalm 23

1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28

Matthew 25: 31-46

So we come to the end of the liturgical year. Our year, as Catholics, comes to the end right now and not on December 31st. Leave it to us to do things differently. I think that’s good, however. Come December 31st, on New Year’s Eve, we won’t have time to recall how far we have come to preparing the Coming of the Lord because we’ll be filling our champagne glasses in a toast to the new year. So we celebrate the end of the year now with the feast of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

With the end of the year we segue to the end of the world. And so we segue to language we in the Church business call Apocalyptic. Which leads us to the Apocalypse.

Now we can go one of two ways or both. The first is the language of the school of Matthew which kindly accepts the god sheep and savagely considers the bad. The good go to the kingdom prepared from the beginning of the world and the bad go to hell. Hellfire and brimstone. Many a preacher get a lot of mileage out of this take on the end times. These preachers rant and rale with wild swings of their arms and spittle coming out of their prophetic mouths. And they would be right in swinging that way.

On the other hand, some preachers take the Ezekiel tract which promises rescue and healing, rest and bringing back the stray. That would be another way to go.

Thomas O’Laughlin, a Dominican, takes a different route to take while celebrating the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ., King of the Universe. (Scripture in Church, Vo. 47, No. 188, pp. 44-49). Since this feast comes once at the end of the liturgical year with its own preface in the Mass, he suggests we, in contemplation, reflect on the preface slowly line by line like a year in review of our belief.

And so:

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you anointed your Only Begotten Son,

Our Lord Jesus Christ, with the oil of *gladness*

As the eternal Priest and King of all creation,

So that, by offering himself on the altar of the Cross

As a spotless sacrifice to bring us peace,

He might accomplish the mysteries of human redemption

And, making all created things subject to his rule,

He might present to the immensity of your majesty

An eternal and universal kingdom,

A kingdom of truth and life,

A kingdom of holiness and grace,

A kingdom of justice, love and peace.

And so, with the Angels and Archangels,

With Thrones and Dominions,

And with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,

We sing the hymn of your glory.

The preface of this Mass.

As is our custom at the end of the year, we reflect how we stack up to what we hoped to accomplish last year in regards truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, peace and love. Not the greatest I’m afraid. Jesus still awaits our compliance so as to present to our Father a kingdom to his liking. And then we make resolutions for the new year so as to further the Kingdom of God along.

What should be our resolutions for the coming year beginning in Advent starting next week?