



## ***Catholic Community***

**Member of the English-Speaking Mission**

**Youth Mass: 1<sup>st</sup> Friday at TBD in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

**Sundays at 10 a.m. in the main Sanctuary**

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Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00-12:00

## **November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

**Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber**

- Lector: Michael Burda • Music: Johannes Wrembek, Benilda de la Cruz, Johannes Ploog, Ryan Quiming
- Greeter: Buck Chisolm • Altar Servers: Bobot Quiming, Michael Oshin •
- Designated collection: All Saints •

### **First Reading (Ez 34:11-12, 15-17)**

Thus, says the Lord GOD: I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD.

The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly.

As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.

### **Second Reading (1Cor 15:20-26, 28)**

Brothers and sisters: Christ have been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the first fruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

### **Gospel (Mt 25:31-46)**

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 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. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Designated collections are for special purposes in the Archdiocese of Berlin and are transferred in full. **However, in agreement with the Archdiocese, All Saints receives no financial support, so we are completely dependent upon your donations.** Please continue to donate to All Saints by using the **WHITE ENVELOPES** stamped "**ALL SAINTS FUND**" and/or transferring your donation to the Pax-Bank account written below. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** • \*Friends of All Saints e.V.\*, IBAN: DE15 3706 0193 6001 6690 18, BIC: GENODE33PAX

### 33. Sunday A – All Saints

Sometimes the language develops in amazing twists and turns. Jesus uses the word *talent* in his parable. When the master entrusted his possessions to his servants, he gave two talents to one, to some others he gave more or less, to each according to his ability. In Jesus' days, a talent meant a huge amount of money, far above the riches any of his hearers could ever dream of. Today we do not speak of talents, but we count in millions and billions, yet the word talent remained in use, and now it refers to a particular ability a person may possess. Everyone is gifted in one way or another. Nobody is without any ability, and none possesses all of them.

In the parable Jesus speaks of money, but we are meant to hear him speaking of the gifts and talents God bestowed on each one in a personal measure. They are given to be used, to be developed, to yield worthwhile results. Some servants in the parable did well; they receive praise and their reward. But one did not, and he has a hard time to explain why he did not use what was entrusted to him.

I would like to underline two points with which he tries to make his apologies to the master. "*Out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground.*"

*Out of fear.* Fear is never a good advisor. Fear is felt, and the stronger the feeling becomes, the more it paralyses the person in thinking, reflection and evaluation. The soberness of mind and judgement melts away, so that the result can be no more than a thoughtless reaction.

Therefore, we have to look into ourselves, what fears have crept into our minds and hearts, and whether we are driven by strange anxieties. Such spontaneous fears drive us into forms of behaviour that we cannot explain in the end. Now the Old Testament states repeatedly: *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.* Yes, as long as this fear of God is reverence and not panic-stricken trembling. To keep God in view, in the details of our daily lives, and to remain in the certitude that He called us into life and that we have to render an account whether we lived this life well, yes, that is the beginning of wisdom. And this wisdom will also assure us that God will never demand more than we are able to deliver.

The poor fellow who, *out of fear*, hid the talent of his master in the ground, is moreover plagued by a profound misunderstanding. This betrays itself when he speaks of "*your talent*". "*Here it is back.*" The other good and faithful servants had understood that the master had given them these talents, they remain the master's possessions in their trust, but they were given to them. They had received them as a gift from the master. The third one, however, would not recognise his talent as something truly given to him. He continued to see the gift as "*your talent. Here it is back.*" In his eyes, it was not a gift to him, he did not receive it as a gift, he refused to identify the master's affairs with his own. The split, yours there and mine here, dominates the situation; and what is yours is no concern of mine. I think we can sense the tragic error that is hidden in these words. God gives us life, health, abilities of many sorts, responsibilities and tasks; they are gifts, goods not of our own making, but now they are ours, truly ours, and we have to handle them as best as we can. There is no escape from what we are given, no hiding in the ground and in the end no "*Your talent. Here it is back.*"

Whether we think of the human abilities to create and nurture, to guide or invent, to care and love, to be loved and to share, to contribute to the well-being of others, to learn and to teach, to shine in public or to live in private retreat, - in every case we slide into **darkness** by not accepting them as gifts given to us, as *our* talents. And we maintain **light** in and around us when we accept them as gifts from God, as ours from him, and use and develop them without losing sight of God in our affairs. Saint Paul said very beautifully: "*You, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness. ... For all of you are children of light, and children of the day.*"

Fr. Dietmar Lenfers, Miss. Afr.

### Christmas Tree arrival and decoration of church on November 27th at 5 p.m.

On Friday November 27, the Christmas tree will be delivered. We urgently need volunteers for the set up and the decoration of the church at 5 p.m. If you can help, sign-up in the office or contact Konrad Giersdorf ([giersdorf@hotmail.com](mailto:giersdorf@hotmail.com)). Thank You!