

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew]**

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 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 the least  
of my 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."

**The Gospel of the Lord.**