

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time November 14, 2021

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

¹“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

ends of heaven. ²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

³⁰ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away before all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³² “But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11

R. (1) You are my inheritance, O Lord!

O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot. I set the LORD
ever before me; with him at my right hand I
shall not be disturbed.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord!

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul
rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence;
because you will not abandon my soul to the
netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful
one to undergo corruption.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord!

You will show me the path to life, fullness of
joys in your presence, the delights at your
right hand forever.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord!

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ then to wait until his enemies should be made a stool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified... ¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

²⁴ “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the

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INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

History is undaunting. It just continues to its natural conclusion with or without our agreement. We have the privilege to contribute to and influence it, but not to alter its grand design. Because history can rightly be called his-story. The natural conclusion of history becomes in reality a supernatural outcome. His-story is one in which God determined to create and claim through love, a people of his own (1 Peter 2:9). Though Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and thus affected history, God in his love would not allow them to alter his-story's purpose. This week's Scripture readings portray three aspects of his - story: the promise, the prescription, and the preview. **The promise:** Imagine, some 100-200 years before Jesus was born, Daniel predicted the promise of eternal resurrection and eternal punishment. This week's first reading says, "those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." During Jesus' time walking on earth, and from before Daniel's time to the present, people have wondered and debated about the end of life, resurrection, and damnation. Many base their view of eternity on their own limited understanding. We who follow Christ base our views on the divine revelation of sacred Scripture, which holds unlimited promises. This passage in Daniel is a promise worth clinging to, for those who believe. **The prescription:** Many contemplate the end times with distress and fear. The real possibility of a life spent in "shame and everlasting contempt" looms evermore as a real possibility when they reflect on their life lived outside the will of God. Though the terror is real it is not of itself sufficient to either bring about change or remove the fearful debt they owe. Only God's powerful prescription can do that. Jesus, as Christ, became and becomes our high priest entering into God's presence offering his own life, death, and resurrection as the Sacrifice which can remove every stain of sin, making perfect and freeing from guilt and judgment those who believe. **The preview:** Jesus gives us a glimpse of his glorious and triumphant return. It does not matter that at times in history it appears that the forces of evil will overwhelm his people, the drama is not yet over until he returns and wraps up his-story. This week's Gospel passage gives us just a hint of the final outcome. Jesus and his people will be in the "win" column, while his opponents will experience the ultimate "loss." His will be a glorious victory and a triumphant return. The joy and jubilation his people feel will far surpass that which people experience when tearing down the goal post or cutting down the net over the biggest upset of the season. Ours will be the upset of eternity—the inevitable and sure conclusion to his-story. "God reconciling the world to himself is also God reconciling himself to the world. In working out the plan of redemption, the Bible does not say that man became God, but that God became man. Further, he reconciled himself to the world by 'not counting their trespasses against them.' He forgave us not by ignoring our trespasses but by assuming our trespasses. 'For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.' God became what by right he was not, so that we might become what by right we are not. This is what Christians through the ages have called 'the happy exchange.' This exchange, this reversal, is at the very epicenter of the story of our redemption," * **Persuaded!** So, persuaded that these things are true we can with the Psalmist rejoice and say, "I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure. For thou dost not give me up to Sheol or let thy godly one see the Pit. Thou dost show me the path of life; in thy presence there is fullness of joy, in thy right hand are pleasures for evermore." This is the blessed assurance of which we sing.

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INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading

1. Which provides more motivation for people to live righteously, the promise of the resurrection or the fear of damnation and punishment?

Second Reading

2. What will turn the forgiveness we have in Christ into living a life of gratitude?

Gospel Reading

3. As you reflect on verses 24-27 what feelings are generated: awe, fear, jubilation, wonder, doubt, etc.?
4. How should the promise, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" influence us today?
5. What affect would, knowing the exact time of Jesus' return have on people?
6. How does Mary's response to the announcement of Jesus' first Advent, prepare us for our response to the announcement of his second Advent?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.