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## 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 13 November 2022

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# 13 November 2022

## Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection by Debra Snoddy

### Introduction

The end-times are coming, indeed, they are upon us. Or are they? What does it mean to be a disciple in times of loss and crises? How can we find solace in the midst of the terrors of our day? The answer is found in today's Gospel.

### Penitential Act

Use one of the *Roman Missal* texts or this optional litany form:

Lord Jesus, you are the justice of God.  
Lord, have mercy.

You are the way, the truth and the life.  
Christ, have mercy.

You are the temple of God.  
Lord, have mercy.

### Collect

Grant us we pray, O Lord our God,  
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,  
for it is full and lasting happiness  
to serve with constancy  
the author of all that is good.

This is a prayer whose meaning unfolds when the historical circumstances are known. This prayer is from the series of Masses written by Pope Vigilius while Rome was under siege by the Arian Ostrogoths under Witiges. Scholars place it in the Mass for either August 23rd or 30th in the year 537, corresponding to a period of hope for the Romans in the war. They had just come through a famine and pestilence in July, and are greeted with the encouraging news that imperial troops have disembarked at Naples and are on their way to relieve the city. In the face of a possibly immanent victory Vigilius fears the community will fall away from its devotion to the liturgy and praise of God. The immediate petition of the prayer is that

God may grace the church with that joy which comes from unceasing devotion. In the second clause of the prayer, such devotion is described as the service of the One who is author of all good things. For that reason, it is what guarantees full and unending happiness.

## **First Reading**

### **Malachi 3:19-20a**

Malachi speaks of a day where the fiery justice of God will destroy all evil while the same force will be experienced as the life giving sun; allowing for renewal and healing.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

### **Psalm 97:5-9. R. cf. v. 9**

*The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.*

The psalm sums up for us the nature of God-given justice. Nothing on earth will matter when the Lord comes.

## **Second Reading**

### **2 Thessalonians 3:7-12**

Paul encourages the community of Thessalonica to maintain an orderly life by imitating the best they have seen in fellow Christians.

## **Gospel Reading**

### **Luke 21:5-19**

The world will come to an end. However, our place is not to get caught up in speculation as to when this time might be but, rather, to witness to the promises of Christ in our daily lives.

## **Reflection**

The liturgical year is coming to a close and the readings we have today reflect this, talking as they do about the end-times and the loss that this will bring. The theme that emerges from the prophet Malachi's text is found again in the Gospel reading. We see references to the day of reckoning, when evildoers will be set on fire, the Temple in Jerusalem destroyed and the earth shaken by powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues, among many other terror-inducing things. However, in fact, the opposite is true. How can this be?

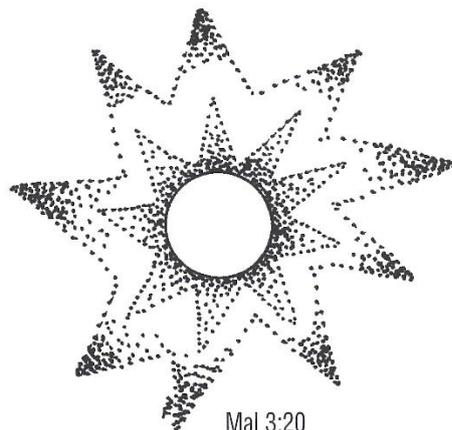
The Gospel today comes close to the end of the ministry of Jesus and just before his passion and crucifixion. It is a hard text to hear and indeed, for many people the events portrayed in the Gospel are happening right now, with many facing loss upon

loss this year. Nonetheless, something similar could have been said at any time since the Gospel of Luke came into being. Jesus' warnings are ominous and his predictions terrifying.

But to those who first hear these words, they were words of encouragement and hope. Luke wrote his Gospel after the Temple of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans in the year 70CE. His audience were mainly Gentile Christians and Luke wants them to understand that the fall of the Temple is used by God as part of God's plan for salvation. In witnessing the upheavals of their time and concerned to know if these were signs from God that the end of the world was near, Luke appeals to them for greater patience. The challenge of discipleship is learning to trust Jesus' promise that he will be with us, even in the most difficult of times.

The second part of the Gospel is given over to Jesus' warnings that his followers will be persecuted for their belief in him. But, rather than being a cause for alarm for the believer, Jesus assures them that it is an opportunity for them to give witness to their faith. This will serve as an example to all the followers of Jesus and show that even in the face of persecution, staying faithful to Jesus will lead to their salvation – 'not a hair on your head will be destroyed'. We know this to be true because Jesus himself witnesses to this with his own death on the cross.

At times of anxiety and loss, when one feels that things are collapsing all around us, and we think that it is all over and we are weary of doing good for the Church and our communities, this is the time to remember the words of Jesus that God will triumph. Through Jesus' death, a new world is born and now we are in the 'in-between times' as the old world continues its death throes and the new world longs to come to its full realisation. It is a time of pain and it is sometimes hard to see beyond that. But we have Christ as our hope and our example. As disciples we are called to trust in God's mercy and protection, even when we are facing difficulties.



Mal 3:20

**The sun of righteousness  
shall rise.**

# Prayer of the Faithful

## Introduction

The psalmist tells us that the Lord will come to rule the earth with justice. Knowing God's justice to be real in our lives, we desire good things for our communities and our world and know that God will listen attentively to our prayers, so we pray.

## Petitions

We pray for our Church leaders, Pope Francis, leaders in the clergy, laity and religious, that they will continue to work for peace and justice all the days of their lives.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for the Church in Australia that as we continue to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to us, we will remain true to the work of the Plenary Council and recognise the possibilities of Christ's justice among us.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all the leaders of the world in political and economic entities that they will realise that absolute security can only be found in God.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who sick or suffering that they will seek to get well through the love and care of others so that they can contribute to the well-being of their family and their community.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for this assembly that we will all continue to work conscientiously at our daily tasks, earning the food we eat, following Paul's example, doing all that we do, even our eating and drinking, in the name of, and for the glory of, our Lord Jesus Christ.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all those who assist us in our lives by building our homes and workplaces, by making their skills in the arts available to make our lives rich in beauty.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

## Conclusion

God offers us opportunities to work for the Kingdom and so we ask that these requests that will help us in our daily lives be granted. We pray through the power of the Spirit and in the name of Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Music selections by Alessio Loiacono and Chris deSilva

Title	AOV1	AOV2	AOVK	GA	CWB	CWBII	S&S1
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus	191			371	619	449	
Be not afraid	114			449		653	
Be still, my soul						142	
Come, O long expected Jesus					657		
Eye has not seen	146			466			
Find us ready							109
For all the saints				551	679	439	
Gift of finest wheat				191	685	651	
God, whose purpose is to kindle						500	
How can I keep from singing?				454			
How great thou art	94					577	
I know that my Redeemer lives		34				145	
I want to walk as a child of the light						514	
In Christ there is no east or west					721	519	
Lord of all hopefulness					738	541	
Love divine, all loves excelling				463	740	552	
Now thank we all our God	189			425	755	561	
O God, our help in ages past	175			459	767	568	
Rejoice! The Lord is king!					799	377	
Sing a new song unto the Lord		76				600	
Sing out earth and skies						235	
The Church's one foundation				484	819	614	
The voice of God				476	835	621	
To live like Jesus			160				
Wait for the Lord						251	
Wake, awake! For night is flying				282	853	252	
When the king shall come again						249	

## Psalms Selected by Chris deSilva and Angela McCarthy

**Psalm 97: *The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.***

	CWB	JOBC	LPC
Psalm 97	447	pg. 107	pg. 174

## Music selections by Michael Mangan

**Sing new songs of joy (CWBII, FWS) Based on Ps 97/98 [Gathering, Recessional]**