

33<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Sunday  
November 18, 2018  
“Hope and Salvation”

Dan 12:1-3

Heb 10:11...18

Mark 13:24-32

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

It seems that in every generation there is someone who insists that the end of the world is imminent. Every so often, there are those who sincerely believe that the world is about to be destroyed in some way. They observe the signs of the times, the deplorable condition of society, and the bankrupt culture around them. Thus, they conclude that, surely, God is going to do something ominous very soon!

However, so far they have been wrong. Our planet still turns on its axis, the sun continues to rise and set each day, society is still in a deplorable state, and one bankrupt culture always seems to follow another!

The scriptures for today speak about broken and sinful humanity – as well as the End-Time when God will judge the world through Jesus Christ.

The Book of Daniel probably had more than one author. Daniel, himself, is the epic, heroic figure in the first chapters. He is the one who keeps fidelity to the true God and God’s covenant always before him.

The passage, today, refers to the terrible persecution under Antiochus Epiphanes, 150 years or so before the birth of Jesus. This tyrannical leader imposed pagan Greek culture and worship upon the entire Hebrew nation. Furthermore, he was merciless in his slaughter of those who resisted and refused.

Today, the prophet gives the faithful ones great hope. He looks to both the near and the distant futures. Yes, the times are unsurpassed in distress – But Michael, God’s protecting archangel, will continue to guard the faithful ones. Consequently, no matter what happens, the souls and spirits of everyone will survive and live.

Moreover, in the future, there will be a resurrection of every person whom God ever created. Then, the faithful will live forever in the Glory of God’s presence –

While the unfaithful will be condemned to everlasting horror and disgrace!

Jesus picks up this same theme in the Gospel of Mark. Jesus foretells what will happen when the End-Time finally arrives. There will be cataclysmic disturbances on our planet – whether from natural causes or from our own science or lack of it.

However, what is assured is that Jesus himself, as the Son of Man, will make his universal appearance to everyone still living. God's angels will assure that everyone is gathered for the judgment that will be rendered collectively and individually.

Jesus goes on to teach us that it is imperative that we be prepared for our personal judgment. However, since no one but God the Father knows the day or the hour of that event, we must always be ready. We must live, each day, aware of God's presence – remaining faithful to the New Covenant we have with Him in Jesus!

Unfortunately, we are all sinners! No matter how hard we try, we continue to fail! In fact, everyone's situation would be hopeless, were it not for Jesus our brother. For, according to the Book of Hebrews, Jesus is our great high priest. He intercedes for us!

Brothers and Sisters, what Jesus did on Calvary is beyond space and time. It is in the eternal "now" of God! His sacrifice of love reaches backward and forward throughout the whole of human history. His act of love is always eternally present. It merits God's forgiveness of any and every sin that darkens our life.

However, we must be sorry – We must repent – We must have a firm purpose of amendment – We must strive to do better!

We accomplish this best, if we learn to live in God's presence throughout our daily lives. Thus, we must learn to allow the presence of God to become something like the background music for all that we do!

So, let us pray, today, that all that God wants for us and hopes for us will become a reality from this day forward!

Amen.

November 18, 2018

Msgr. Russell G. Terra