

First Reading: Malachi 3:19-20
Response: “**The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness**” (Ps.97:-9)
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 97:5-9
Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

KERYGMA: *Yeshuah Mashiah, Adon Neor, the Risen Lord, is with us now and always, even until the end of time. He tells us to be ready for the last day and not to lose hope.*

Malachy, the last book of the Old Testament, prepares us for the coming of *Mashiah*, Christ. Then will come judgement day, blazing like an oven, “**burning like a furnace**” (Mal.3:19).

The *Mashiah*, Yeshuah, “**the Sun of righteousness will shine out**” (Mal.3:20), ushering in day of judgement, will also be a day of grace, offering hope, “**with healing in his rays/wings**”(Ibid.).

Psalm 97 is a hymn of God’s kingship, “**The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness**” (v.9) and “**the hills ring out their joy at the presence of the Lord**” (v.8).

There will be great rejoicing at his coming. **Sing to Lord with the harp**” (Ps.97:5). All creation will rejoice, “**the sea and all within it, will thunder; the world, and all its peoples**” (Ps.97:6).

We are not to await the return of the Lord in idleness. We have to earn our salvation and work for a living, as did St. Paul. “**You know how you were suppose to imitate us**” (2 Thess.3:7).

The proper way to share in last times is “**to go on quietly working and earning the food that you eat**” (2 Thess.3:12). Work conscientiously, sharing in the completion of Christ’s creation.

Jesus speaks of some of the signs of end-times, when he will come in all his glory. “**The time will come when everything will be destroyed**”(Lk.21:6), even the destruction of the Temple.

Jesus gives warning of catastrophic events, false messiahs and persecutions. We are to read the signs. Can we follow Christ to the end? “**your endurance will win you your lives**” (Lk.21:19).

SCRIPTURE: Read the Gospel of today (Lk.21:5-19). Ponder on Christ’s future triumphant return.

LITURGY: Be strengthened by the word of God and the sacrament of the Eucharist.

DOCTRINE: See Jesus as the Lord of creation and Lord of life and death.

WITNESS: Persevere and be strong in your faith and strengthen others.

FOR THE CHILDREN:

Bible: Read and share with the children what Jesus is saying today (Lk.21:5-19).

Worship: *Why do we stand at the Gospel during Mass? Who are we listening to?*

Teaching: Jesus speaks of when he will come again. *What do we call it?* His Second Coming.

Action: Explain ‘perseverance.’ Encourage the children to practice it in their faith.

FOR TEENAGERS (Shared Christian Praxis)

What does the Second Coming and triumph of Christ mean to you?

How have I lived this as a truth of my faith? How much do I believe?

Here the teacher gives a catechesis on the end of times and Christ’s triumphant second coming.

See how the Church teaches and lives this truth of faith, preparing for the coming of the Lord.

Become more aware of the presence of the Lord and being prepared for the end of times.

RCIA: CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (CCC)

The message of the Last Judgement calls men to conversion while God is still giving them “the acceptable time,...the day of salvation. It inspires a holy fear of God and commits them to the justice of the Kingdom of God. It proclaims the “blessed hope” of the Lord’s return, when he will come “to be glorified in his saints and to be marvelled at in all who have believed.” (CCC.1041)

LIFE EXPERIENCE “The Last Lecture”

This “Last Lecture” was passed on from someone who was dying of pancreatic cancer. Below are some of the points he wrote on “**HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR LIFE.**”

Personality:

1. Don’t compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
2. Don’t have negative thoughts of things you cannot control. Invest energy in present moment.
3. Make peace with your past so it won’t spoil your present.
4. Don’t waste your energy on gossip & you don’t have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
5. No one is in charge of your happiness except you. Smile and laugh more.
6. Realize that life is a school and that you are here to learn.

Community:

7. Call your family often.
8. Each day give something good to others.
9. Forgive everyone for everything.
10. Spend time with people over the age of 70 and under the age of 6.
11. Your job will not take care of you when you are sick. Your family and friends will. Stay in touch.

Life:

12. Put GOD first in anything and everything that you think, say and do.
13. GOD heals everything. Just do the right things.
14. However good or bad a situation is, it will change. The best is yet to come.
15. When you awake alive in the morning, thank GOD for it.
16. If you know GOD you will always be happy. So, be happy.

From: <http://www.galmin.co.za/blog/?p=1341> (edited by A.I. Moss OMI)

I know a man who died that you may have life and have it abundantly – **JESUS CHRIST.**

LITTLE ANGELINA

“What about ‘escapology’?” inquired Angelina. Thinking quickly, I thought she discovered a new word especially when she connected it to the Church. Was it about escapes and cover-ups? So I asked her why the question.

“Because I heard you talking to my father,” she said. I then realized what she meant. We had been talking about the end-times and the word she had heard was “eschatology,” the study of last things. I explained to her the proper pronunciation and true meaning of the word. I suppose it could include her escapological word as well, with regards to escaping hell.

IMPORTANT WORD: ‘End-times’ (Lk.21:5-19) *Mundus vult decipi.*

The coming of the end of time, Jesus tells us, will be preceded by basically three signs. First, the appearance of imposters, such the anti-Christ who will mislead people. Second, human disasters such as war and strife. Lastly, natural disasters, such as upheavals all over the world, including beyond in cosmic proportions. Jesus warns us, not to be deceived by all this. For it is not the last word. “*Mundus vult decipi*” (i), says Martin Buber, a Jewish existentialist theologian. The world delights in deception which is certainly a ploy of the anti-Christ. Deceptions can be anything from deliberate distortions to a “curious mix of truths and untruths.” (ii) Jesus warns the faithful to be on guard and bear witness to the truth. “Watch and pray,” for who knows when is judgement day and the triumphant coming of the Lord?

(i) **BUBER Martin.** ‘**I AND THOU**’. Transl. **Walter Kaufmann.** T. & T. Clark Ltd., Edinburgh. 1970. p.9.

(ii) *Ibid.* p.10

Watchword: “**Your endurance will win you your lives**” (Lk.21:19)

Hebrew: בתוחלתכם קנו לכם את נפשתיכם
Bethohaltekem qenu lekhem eth naphshotheykhem.

Greek: Εν τη υπομονη υμων κτησασθε τας ψυχας υμων.
En te hupomone humon ktesasthe tas psuchas humon.

Latin: **In patientia vestra possidebitis animas vestras.**

Portuguese: **Na vossa paciência possui as vossas almas.**

Spanish: **Con vuestra paciencia ganareis vuestras almas.**

French: **Tenez bon: c'est ainsi que vous sauverez vos vies.**

German: **Seid standhaft und ihr werdet euer Leben gewinnen.**

Afrikaans: **Deur julle volharding moet julle julleself red.**

Zulu: **Niyakuzuza imiphefumulo yenu ngokuqiniseka.**

Xhosa: **Nothi ke ngokunyamezela kwenu nibuzuze ubomi benu.**

Sotho: **Ka tiisetso ya lona le tla ithuela bophelo.**

Irish: **Is le bhur mbuanseasamh a ghnothoidh sibh bhur n-anamacha.**