

will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.’ And they put to him this question: ‘Master’, they said ‘when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?’

‘Take care not to be deceived’, he said ‘because many will come using my name and saying, “I am he”, and, “The time is near at hand.” Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.’ Then he said to them, ‘Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

‘But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

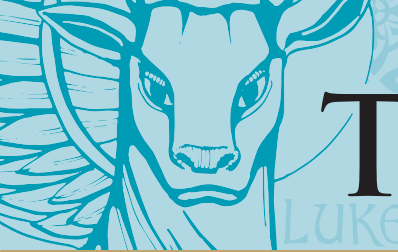
GOD’S PROTECTIVE PROMISE

Last Sunday we commemorated the *Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*. The Gospel then was from John with Jesus cleansing the Temple and its precincts, restoring it as the rightful abode of God’s presence and holiness. Today’s Gospel, continuing our liturgical journey with Luke, touches again on the theme of the Temple. But this time, Jesus anticipates its destruction and then springboards Gospel listeners into a sermon on the end-time. The Gospel theme prepares us for the final Sundays of the year before the new liturgical year, Year A and Matthew’s Gospel, commences in two weeks’ time with the beginning of Advent.

Today’s Gospel is complex and often misunderstood. It requires careful explanation. Our selection comes from Luke’s ‘apocalyptic’ chapter. Here the evangelist draws on Mk 13 but reshapes it in the light of the audience’s experience and memory of Jerusalem’s destruction by Rome in 70 CE. This experience is retrojected on to Jesus’ teaching seeming to prophesy its destruction. In Jesus’ day the Temple was still standing; by the time Luke writes, Jerusalem and its Temple are already destroyed.

Luke’s apocalyptic teaching acknowledges the struggle of Jesus’ faithful followers living generations after Jesus public ministry, assuring them of God’s comforting presence, warning them not to be carried away by messianic pretenders, and encouraging their patient endurance in all that unfolds. The last words of the Gospel contain the essence of God’s protective promise: ‘...not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.’ We, too, lean into these words amid our struggles today.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

16 NOVEMBER 2025

FIRST READING

Mal 3:19-20

A reading from the prophet Malachi

The sun of righteousness will shine on you.

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 97:5-9. R. cf. v. 9

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

1. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp / with the sound of music. / With trumpets and the sound of the horn / acclaim the King, the Lord. **R.**
2. Let the sea and all within it, thunder; / the world, and all its peoples. / Let the rivers clap their hands / and the hills ring out their joy / at the presence of the Lord. **R.**
3. For the Lord comes, / he comes to rule the earth. / He will rule the world with justice / and the peoples with fairness. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Thess 3:7-12

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Do not give anyone food who refuses to work.

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone’s table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.



We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else’s. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 21:28

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lift up your heads and see;
your redemption is near at hand.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 21:5-19

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Your endurance will win you your life.

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, ‘All these things you are staring at now – the time