

# Read



Malachi 3:19-20a

Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Luke 21:5-19

## LIVING THE WORD

### Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 17, 2019



#### REFLECTION

In today's Second Reading, Paul says we must act as models of Christian behavior if anyone is going to listen to our words. Similarly, in the Gospel Jesus tells us that at the end of the world every deed and action will be known, and those who have modeled the faith well will have a future in heaven. Do I realize that I am a model for others in everything I do and say? My actions, words, and attitudes affect those around me. In fact, example is a much more powerful tool for either good or evil than words. The intention with which we say something is sometimes more important than what we actually say. Jesus warns us that it is not easy to set an example worthy of our calling as Christians. Ask yourself today: if everyone in the world knew all my actions of my life so far, what would I want to change?



#### ACTION

Set alarms on your watch or phone one day for 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, and 5 PM. Each time an alarm goes off, think about the thing you most recently said, thought, texted, posted, or did. Ask yourself if that will encourage someone else to do good, or do something sinful. Was what you said or did pessimistic, unkind, dismissive or bullying? Or was it kind, helpful, thoughtful and charitable? In the evening, reflect on your actions and write a resolution in your journal of one thing you will change. Practice taking a breath and thinking before you speak or act.

*"Be who God meant you to be  
and you will set the  
world on fire."*



—St. Catherine of Siena

#### ? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What is your game plan for breaking bad habits?
- ❖ Who do you know who is a model of the Christian life, and what is it about them that you admire?



November 17, 2019

## THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### LECTIONARY #159C

Malachi 3:19-20a

Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Luke 21:5-19

## Prepare for the Word

*The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.*

### Leader's Context

Sometimes, when we hear reports about natural disasters, violence, and wars we wonder if the end of the world is coming. At times, we face persecution for the place faith has in our lives. Jesus speaks to all of this in today's Gospel. His message: be strong, have faith, do not worry about what will come. God is with us through it all.

**Q FOCUS:** *Do not fear; God is here!*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

There is a rhythm within the liturgical year that leads inevitably from one season to the next, inviting us to be immersed in the Paschal Mystery in its fullness. This week, the memorials include that of St. Cecilia (November 22), whose life and martyrdom is a striking witness to the assurance we have of Christ's presence during persecution.

### Church Teaching Connection

We do not know the day or the hour in which the final moment of earthly life will pass—that of our own life or that of the world. Jesus teaches us not to fear, nor to be distracted by those who would appear to speak for him. Trust that God is constant, always with us (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1048).

## Hear the Word

*Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.*

### Gospel Acclamation

*Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.*

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Luke 21:5-19

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.*

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here—the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

Then they asked him, "Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?" He answered, "See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against

nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.

“Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance, you will secure your lives.”

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

The Gospel according to Luke was written after the fall of Jerusalem in the year AD 70. This is helpful to know in reading today's passage, as the first readers of this Gospel account would have had the collapse of Jerusalem and the first Christian martyrdoms in their hearts as they heard this gospel. The message is timeless: the things of this world will pass away; we may face persecution and derision. God's love never changes. God is always with us.

The first section of today's Gospel concerns the end of time. Jesus tells us not to be deceived by people who say that they come in his name. Prophets of doom exist in every age. We are not to allow them or their predictions to distract us; we must remain faithful to Christ.

► Have you heard people predict the end of the world? What is your reaction to such things?

► What distracts you from faithful living?

“Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky” (Luke 21:10–11). Just as those who heard Jesus speak these words, we also can relate to the catastrophes Jesus describes. His message: these things will pass in each generation. Stay constant and live faithfully. We cannot predict the end of the world, but we are assured that Christ will return in glory and must be prepared for him.

► What should the Christian response to natural disasters, violence, or war be?

► Are there moments that feel like “the end of the world” in your life? Personal situations, or national or world events? How do Jesus' words in today's Gospel reassure you?

As people who are committed to Christ, we will face persecution. We may be teased or harassed; we might be ostracized or bullied. Friends may not understand our determination to live according to our faith. Yet, we can be sure that Christ is with us.

► Have you been persecuted on account of your faith?

► What helps you to be strong in such moments?

There are many moments in our lives in which a quick response is needed. At times, we may not know what to say or do. Jesus assures us that God will give us the wisdom to respond and words to say when we need help.

► What situation comes to mind in which you had to react quickly, and in which your faith was a factor in your response? What happened, and how did you rely on God's help in the moment?

While we may not personally face death on account of our faith, there are people who do in our age, as in past generations. There are situations in our own time in which we are called to stand up for what we believe, or to publicly respond to injustice or hatred, even when we know that doing so may result in injury or death.

► What examples come to mind of situations that call for a public response that results from your faith?

► Jesus' overarching message is simple. Do not be afraid. Do not worry about things that are beyond your control. God will be with you, through it all.

## Wrapping It Up

*Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 70.*

In what ways are you assured of God's presence?

How are you strengthened to face life through participation in the Eucharist?

How do you persevere in faith?

## Act on the Word

### Faith in Action

*Have paper and pens available for this exercise.*

Break into two or four teams, depending on the size of your group. Tell each team to brainstorm situations in which teens might hear predictions of the end of the world, face persecution, or be called to act in a public way on account of their faith. Ask them to make a list of the situations they identify.

When the groups have made their list, instruct teens to share their challenges with another group. One group reads a situation they identified, and the other group has to determine the ways in which they might respond in light of their faith.

## Martyrdom Today

*For this exercise, have availability to the internet and books with the lives of the saints.*

Break into small groups of four to five teens. Tell the teens to find examples in the lives of the saints or of people who have faced persecution and have been martyred as a result (they may need to look online). Ask them to consider the situations they might face today—while martyrdom is not likely, we cannot be certain that our faith will not call us to put our lives on the line.

What do they learn from the martyrs? How do their lessons speak to the teens today? What sort of situations exist in their city, country, or world that can result in Christians putting their lives on the line?

## Tell the Story

*Paper and pens are needed for this activity.*

Tell teens that they are to retell today's Gospel as though Jesus were standing at the door of their church building. How would Jesus address them and their peers? What would be the reaction of the people who heard him? Would their parents or siblings react differently than they would? What about the pastor/priest? What actions or decisions might result from hearing Jesus speak?

## Closing Prayer

*God of hope,  
your promises will not leave us disappointed.  
In times of doubt and anxiety,  
strengthen our faith  
and help us to live as witnesses of the Good News  
of Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

## For Next Sunday

*To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.*