

Read

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Mark 13:24-32

LIVING THE WORD

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 18, 2018



REFLECTION

The unknown can be daunting. What will I be when I grow up? Whom will I marry? Where will I live? These big life questions can cause sleepless nights and some indigestion! We cannot know what the future holds for us so we must try our best to stretch ourselves and our gifts in ways that help prepare us to best handle the transitions of the future. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds his disciples that his time with them is coming to an end. The foreshadowing of his Crucifixion was likely lost on the disciples. And yet, all of us must live believing "of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Mark 12:32). At this day of reckoning, will any of us be able to stand proudly and admit our sins, our graces, and our deep faith in God? It is a question that should keep us up at night once in a while.



QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ In what ways do you need to prepare yourself for the coming of Jesus?
- ❖ Where in your life do you need forgiveness?



ACTION

Make a list of those with whom or things to which you need to be reconciled. Maybe it is a relationship with a family member or a friend. Maybe you have taken advantage of our earth's resources and would like to give back. Maybe you haven't willingly attended church recently with your family. This list should motivate you to right these faults. Once you complete this very important to-do list, spend some time in Eucharistic adoration thanking Christ for the opportunity to prepare your heart for him.





November 18, 2018

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTIONARY #158B

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Mark 13:24-32

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

Today's readings are more specific about the end times. No one knows when the Day of Judgment will be. Jesus reminds us we must always be ready for the Lord. On the last day we will be judged based on how we lived our lives. Did we love others as God has loved us? We must live every day so that if we are called to meet God he will find us worthy to be with him forever. Use your time with the teens to focus not so much on what will happen at the end of time, but what we need to be doing all the time in order to be ready.

Q FOCUS: *To live in anticipation of the Second Coming of Christ.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

The memorial of St. Cecilia is on November 22. According to legend, she was beheaded because she would not forsake her vow of virginity and would not make sacrifices to the gods. She is the patron saint of musicians, singers, and poets. Her association with music is most likely related to a line from her *passio* (an account of her holy "passion," her martyrdom), where she is said to have sung "in her heart to Christ" as the musicians played at her wedding. Upon its foundation in 1584, the Academy of Music in Rome declared her the patron saint of musicians. St. Cecilia's popularity grew so much that several hymns were written in her honor, and her life is referenced in Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*.

Church Teaching Connection

"Christ the Lord already reigns through the Church, but all the things of this world are not yet subjected to him. The triumph of Christ's kingdom will not come about without one last assault by the powers of evil" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 680).

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

Mark 13:24-32

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Jesus said to his disciples: “In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

“And then they will see the ‘Son of Man coming in the clouds’ with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.

“Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, I know that he is near, at the gates. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”

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:

Apocalyptic literature was popular in Jesus' time. This style of writing was concerned with the cosmic battle between good and evil. The people Mark was writing to were being persecuted in Rome. The Temple of Jerusalem was destroyed, so there was great hope that Jesus would come quickly. The early Christians knew they needed to be ready, just as we should be. As the end of the Church year nears, the readings begin to speak more of the end times.

► There are many movies that depict the end of the world. What signs do these movies usually use?

► What signs does Jesus say indicate that he is coming again?

► What do you think Jesus means by this? What will remain?

It all sounds pretty extreme. Jesus says that the sun and moon will go dark, stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in heaven will be shaken. People will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds, along with angels. It all sounds pretty amazing, and like nothing anyone has ever seen before. But Jesus also tells us that only the Father knows what is really coming. He says that no one knows when this will happen, not even himself or the angels, but only the Father.

► What do you think Jesus wanted his listeners to understand when he told them this?

Jesus knew that his words would probably seem surprising to his listeners. But he didn't want them to worry so much about what would happen or when it would happen. He just wanted them to know that they needed to be ready for him to come again at any moment. They would never know when it would happen, so they couldn't put off living good lives until later. This is true for us, too.

► What kinds of things does a person need to do to be ready for Christ every day?

► What things does a person need to avoid?

► How do these words make you think differently about your own life?

The final coming has been imminent since the Ascension of Christ to glory. Judgment Day at the end of the world is when good will finally triumph over evil. The Catholic Church teaches that the resurrection of the dead precedes the Last Judgment. In Matthew 25, we hear the story of the final judgment when Christ gathers all the nations and separates them as a shepherd, the goats on the left and the sheep on the right. These images help us understand how our judgment rests on how we treated others.

► What questions do you have about the final coming?

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.

Jesus tells us to be ready for him to come again. If Jesus came right now, would you be proud to show him how you've lived your life?

If Jesus were to read your Facebook wall and comments, tweets, emails, and so on, what would he think?

Act on the Word

Signs of the Kingdom

You will need butcher paper or a large sheet of poster board and coloring materials to lead this activity.

Christ will come again at the end of time, and in the meantime, it is our call to build God's Kingdom here on earth. In this Sunday's Gospel, Christ talks about signs that he is coming again. There are signs that we can see all around us already of Christ's Kingdom being built here on earth. Put a large sheet of butcher paper or poster board on the floor or on a table and distribute coloring materials. Invite each teen to find an area on the poster board to draw pictures of some of the signs that they see of God's Kingdom all around them. When you are finished, display their work at the front of the room and talk about what you see.

Closing Prayer

*Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace,
you foretell the dawning of God's Kingdom.
May we discover it
as clearly as we are able to discern the change
of seasons.
Let us not fear your imminent return
but await it with hope and joy.
You live and reign with the Father 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. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.