

Malachi 3:19–20a

Psalm 98:5–6, 7–8, 9

2 Thessalonians 3:7–12

Luke 21:5–19

## Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 13, 2022



### REFLECTION

In this week's Gospel, Jesus speaks prophetically about the coming fall of the temple in Jerusalem during the days of the early Church, but there is also a lesson in here for us. The temple was the central symbol of faith in Christ's time, but when put to the test, mere appearance of faith and devotion is not enough. All our outward accomplishments and ambitions are vulnerable to destruction. In the end, all of it returns to dirt and dust (see Ecclesiastes 3:20).

So does this mean all of our efforts are meaningless? Jesus promises that perseverance through trials will be rewarded with life. Our accomplishments are all temporary; except for those things that are of God that endure: faith, hope, and love (1 Corinthians 13:13). These are the things we have to persevere in in the face of the fleeting nature of this world.



### ACTION

War, natural disasters, and persecutions fill our social media feeds and newspaper headlines. In all of this, we have to live faithfully, as though Jesus could come tomorrow—or not for centuries. Today's Gospel reminds us that we have to live in the liminal space (on the threshold or in the doorway space), in patient anticipation of Christ's second coming. This is true of our individual lives as well. Ask yourself: What task would I start today if I knew it depended entirely on me to make a better world for future generations? What would I want to change if I knew I would face Jesus in the flesh tomorrow? Today is the day to begin to build lasting temples of faith, hope, and love.



“Dust in the Wind” —Kansas

[https://www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tH2w6Oxx0kQ)

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### ? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What does the temple in this Gospel reading symbolize to us today?
- ❖ How were the early Christian martyrs witnesses for Jesus?





November 13, 2022

# 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

In today's Gospel Jesus is preaching of the end times. While this can be interpreted at any time in the modern era, with wars and rumors of wars, powerful natural disasters causing great destruction and human suffering, this passage from Luke comes from a set context. Luke was writing circa AD 80-90 to an audience of Gentile Christians who had witnessed the destruction of the Second Temple (AD 70) and the persecution of Christians. For the ancient listener, this is happening in real time. This passage also points to a second coming of Christ. Before that time, all believers must persevere, keep the faith, and trust in the Lord. That is a challenge in every age.

**Q FOCUS:** *Though the world can look bleak, Christians carry hope in their hearts.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

This week we celebrate several notable women. The first canonized American citizen, St. Frances Cabrini is remembered on November 13. Travelling across the United States and establishing convents, orphanages, and schools, Mother Cabrini is a model of evangelism in America. St. Margaret of Scotland (November 16) and St. Elizabeth of Hungary (November 17) were powerful women, each in her own time. They were both queens and used their positions of leadership to spread the Gospel through charitable works and a special care for the poor.

### Church Teaching Connection

"Faith makes us walk with Jesus on the very often tortuous roads of this world, in the certainty that the power of His Spirit will bend the forces of evil, subjecting them to the power of God's love. Love is superior, love is more powerful, because it is God: God is love. . . . This is the most precious treasure that has been given to us and the most effective witness we can give to our contemporaries, responding to hatred with love, to offence with forgiveness" (Pope Francis, Angelus Message, November 17, 2019).

### 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 insur-



reactions, 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:*

► Have you ever seen a movie about a dystopian future? What was it like? How did people survive?

In those movies things look pretty bleak. The world is in ruins, people have stopped trusting one another, and it is survival of the fittest. Even in these movies though, there is hope. It usually stems from a lone person, willing to do the good, or make the sacrifice, even if the cost is great.

This is not unlike the scene that Jesus is setting up in today's Gospel. He offers a bleak view of the end of times. Nation against nation, natural disasters causing suffering and destruction, persecution of the faithful. These are things to keep us up at night because they are really happening in the world today.

► What are some examples of these things happening today?

In every generation the people could have thought it was the end, but somehow it wasn't. There have been wars, plagues, pandemics, and disasters throughout history.

Though Jesus shows the reality of this difficult world, he also offers hope. He reminds us that he will give us wisdom when we need it. He tells us that “not a hair on our head will be destroyed.” God, who knows the number of hairs on our heads (Luke 12:7) will protect those hairs. That is the close care of the one who loves us.

Before the end of this material world and the beginning of the heavenly kingdom, there is work to be done. Our task as Christians continues. Just because the possibility of the end exists, it does not mean we give up. If we were down in points in a basketball game, it does not mean the game is over. We still keep playing until the clock reads zero.

Regardless of what is going on in the world around us, we are still called to love God and love our neighbor. We are still called to serve the poor. We are still called to share the Gospel with joy in our hearts for what God has done for us. We are still witnesses to God's loving presence in the world today, in the sacraments and in our churches.

► What good has God done for you this past year? What blessings can you count, however small?

The truth is, what Jesus describes isn't a dystopian future in some movie. It is the reality of the world, that our world is not and will never be perfect. But, it is a reality and a future that is filled with hope. You and I are called to rise up and meet this world with faith, hope, and love. Take courage, persevere, and do not be afraid.



## 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 62.

Many generations could have believed they were living in the end times, as difficulty always exists.

Jesus reminds us to have hope, for he is with us always.

Love is stronger than any opposition, because love is of God; God is love.

## Act on the Word

### A Bible in One Hand, a News Feed in the Other

For this activity, you will need a news feed of current events, a Bible, strips of paper, and a basket.

Theologians throughout major moments of history have remarked that we need a Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. While the way of the newspaper is fading away, we always need the news. The news informs us of the issues we face today as a society. Not all of it is good. At the same time, we also have the Bible. It is filled with traumatic events of history as well. Even in the New Testament and the witness of Jesus' life and death is distressing. Yet we call it the "Good News."

Together with the young people, take a look at the current issues of the day. Allow the teens to talk about which areas concern them the most, and which ones they want to learn more about. In small groups, or together as a large group, discuss the following:

- ❖ Which news stories pique your interest? Why?
- ❖ Which news stories/current events give you the most concern?
- ❖ What are your feelings toward "bad news"?
- ❖ How can the church address these concerns?
- ❖ How can you personally contribute to creating more "good news"?

Remind them that life is always full of good and bad news. Jesus reminds us that in challenging times, we are to have hope. Jesus did not say to his followers that they would not experience any suffering. He did not promise an easy life. In fact, he promised them a cross to bear (Matthew 16:24). Jesus also left us with a power to fight bad news. That power is prayer. Have the participants write their prayer concerns on slips of paper. Invite them to put them in the basket. Close the activity by offering the concerns to God in the form of a collective prayer.

## Closing Prayer

*God of hope,  
your promises will not leave us disappointed.  
In times of doubt and anxiety,  
strengthen our faith and help us live as  
witnesses of the Good News.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
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.