

33rd Sunday Ordinary Time

- At the end of our liturgical year the readings reflect on the end-times
 - Do you remember Y2K?
 - Computers were going to fail
 - Utilities were going to stop
 - We were supposed to stock up on water & canned goods
 - BUT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN
- That experience of Y2K can help us understand these readings
 - Daniel was in Babylonian exile – things were bleak
 - God sends this prophecy of end times & message of Hope
 - Dead shall rise (some to glory – some to disgrace)
 - Wise will shine – those leading others to justice are like stars
 - Mark - 70AD Jerusalem was sacked
 Temple burned to the ground
 Persecution of Christians in earnest
 This Gospel is full of SIGNS OF THE END TIME
Real sense that the end was near, 2nd coming was any minute

Today we seem to have lost the sense that 2nd coming could be immanent
Are we in the end times? Who knows – Jesus says ‘Only the Father’.

Are we confident that, as Christians, we will rise with Christ? **DEFINITELY**

Little pearl in Hebrews about our being in Christ:

- The Rabbi would worship in the Temple Standing Up – so would the Jews
- In fact - 80% of the world's religion worship in buildings with no chairs
Mosques – Stand, Kneel, Bow
OT Posture for prayer was to Stand, Bow, Kneel – Why do we sit?

- Listen to Hebrews:

“Every priest stands daily at his ministry, offering sacrifices that can never take away sins.”
Rabbi's can't take away sin – only God.

“But this one offered one sacrifice for sins, and took his seat forever at the right hand of God”

When Christ, by himself, purged our sins by His sacrifice, He sat down – His work was finished.

As Christians, we are in Christ, so we, in our worship may be seated.

- *Even our position, in prayer, says we are in Christ*
- *And we are confident that we will rise with Him on the last day*

- **Patient at the Faulkner** who was terminal

- Prayer experience & her hand
- I came to know her & her attitude of Faith & Confidence in Christ (& HER resurrection)
- As a people of Faith we live our lives with confident expectation of eternity with God

Listen – not that much has changed since the time of Daniel and Jesus taught His disciples

WAR POVERTY SICKNESS CHILDREN STILL HUNGRY

But there is one major change

Jesus rose from the dead

With Jesus – there is Hope

The messianic hope of the early Church was real

They expected the exalted Christ to return in glory right away

Today Christians don't expect the 2nd coming of Jesus is immanent

But the promise is still real

Our hope is still real

God does act in human history – Jesus is Lord – He will return on the last day