

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 NOTHING HAPPENED
- That experience of Y2K can help us understand these readings about the end times
 - Malachi** “Lo the day is coming, blazing like an oven
When all the proud and evildoers will be stubble
(But for you who fear my name there will arise the sun of justice)”

Luke “All that you see here will be rubble
Nations will rise against nations, kingdom against kingdom
There will be earthquakes, famines, plagues
Christians will be seized and persecuted
You’ll be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives & friends
You’ll be hated because of my name
*(But not a hair on your head will be destroyed
By your perseverance you will secure your lives)*

There is a common thread to both of these readings – the end is coming & it’ll be tough
Earthquakes Famine Plagues Evil will rise up We will be seized and persecuted
We see it all around us already
Earthquakes & volcanoes in Indonesia killing hundreds
We hear of Earthquakes from Calif. to Haiti to China – thousands die
Cholera plague right now in Haiti has killed hundreds
Crime and violence are all around us – we have murders DAILY now
Eleuthera attack on a Catholic nun

YET – these readings of doom all have the same word – **BUT**
Psalm “The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice”

Today we seem to have lost the sense that 2nd coming is real and could be immanent – IT IS!
Are we in the end times? Who knows – Only the Father.
Are we confident that, as Christians, we will rise with Christ? **ABSOLUTELY**

Listen – not that much has changed since the time of Malachi and Jesus taught His disciples
WAR POVERTY SICKNESS CHILDREN STILL HUNGRY
But there is one major change from the time of Malachi and when JC preached
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 to glory AND HE WILL
The promise is still real
Our hope is real
The promises of God in Scripture are sure – solid – we can count on it

Despite what the world throws at us – Earthquakes, Plagues, Crime, Persecution
Even the robbery and assault of nuns

Our faith is sure, our confidence real
God *does* act in human history – Jesus is Lord – He will return on the last day