

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time C 2022
Mal. 3.19-20///2 Thes.3.7-12///Luke 21.5-19

→there once was an atheist driving through the country when he came upon a priest and a rabbi standing on the side of the road...fishing

→next to the priest and the rabbi was this big huge sign that read... ***“turn around...the end is near.”***

→well the atheist took offense to the sign...he rolled down the window and shouted:
“don’t preach to me about the end of the world...you religious nuts.”

→a few seconds later the priest and the rabbi heard tires screech and then a big huge splash...to which the rabbi turned to the priest and said.... “I told you we should have written... ‘bridge out ahead’” *PAUSE*

→looking out for what’s ahead....at what is coming around the corner...what the future holds...what’s going to happen next.....has always been a very real part of human nature.

→this past Tuesday night...after a very long...tedious and contentious election campaign...we saw the talk and rhetoric shift drastically on Wednesday morning.....from what had divided us ...to what now lies ahead...for the newly elected government officials...for the country...and...for you and me

→[and] this has always been a part of who we are as human beings be it dealing with the weather...the economy...politics...or just life in general....we are always concerned about what comes next

→and today we see...that it was no different for the people in the time of Jesus

→Jesus provides the disciples and you and me with a glimpse into the future...a look ahead of what was coming

→specifically, Jesus foretells of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem....an event that took place forty years later when Roman armies invaded Jerusalem and completely destroyed the Temple

→and for the Jewish people... the destruction of the Temple was the equivalent to the end of the world

---and it is precisely for that very reason that the Church uses this gospel passage as the main reading on this second last Sunday of the liturgical year...as we bring to a close the church year and look forward to the next.

→the scripture readings at this time of year...point us towards to endings... the end of the Church and the end of the world as we know it....

PAUSE

→as the Church year draws to a close and as the holidays rapidly approach, we are being asked to reflect on the day also when the world WILL draw to a close and Jesus WILL return in glory.

PAUSE

→[you know] there has always been much talk and speculation among people [throughout history] about the end of the world....predictions as to when it is going to happen, how it will happen, and the events that will happen first.

→in fact, talk about the end of the world became such a fascination that ...in 1947 a doomsday clock was inaugurated...it's a big clock that supposedly is counting down time to the end of the world

→however its main purpose is not so much to bring to an awareness to the world ending as much as it is to bring to an awareness of how things like

→the proliferation of weapons,

→the destruction of the environment, political unrest, the continued injustice and atrocities against human beings....

→how all of these things --are pushing our world deeper and deeper into the danger zone of complete annihilation.

→and depending the circumstances in a given year...the clock is adjusted to signify when the end might come on account of **our actions** and not God's

→this year...the clock reads 100 seconds to midnight

→likewise many others have also given various predictions about how and when the world will end...which centers us back to the gospel reading today

→in speaking of the destruction of the Jerusalem temple, J. **also** tells us that he will return at the end of the time

→[and] he goes on to say....----"**see that you are not deceived.....for many will come in my name...sayingthe time has come...do not follow them ---you will be hated by all because of my name...but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.**"

PAUSE

→[I believe] ---today's gospel is inviting you and me to reflect on the end of the world....however...to do so.....not with an atmosphere of panic, or fear, or impending doom.

→but rather to do so with a sense of our commitment and confidence to our faith and in our belief of Jesus Christ....which means.....

....using our talents and resources not for selfish purposes but for bringing about God's kingdom on here on earth here and now

→i.o.w....perhaps what that means is to start looking at the world and our way of life not always from a negative perspective but from a positive outlook....taking into mind....the many blessings and advantages we have all been given.

→the good news is that because of Christ we have been promised eternal life.....

→we have been blessed and given this promise of eternal life...of salvation and redemption....and so we should have nothing to fear.

→nothing to fear when others hate us

→nothing to fear when Christ himself returns

→nothing to fear...even...if that doomsday clock strikes midnight

→on the contrary....we have every reason to rejoice and sing...to shout for joy and to be confident and sure...because of what God has promised to us....

→my friends.....the end of the world **will happen** someday...only God knows when...but when it does and should we be here to experience it.....we should be glad and rejoice....because then begins our eternal reward!