

# livingtheword

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Hearing and Living the Sunday Readings

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1 [Mal 3:19-20a](#)

Lo, the day is coming, blazing like an oven,  
when all the proud and all evildoers will be stubble,  
and the day that is coming will set them on fire,  
leaving them neither root nor branch,  
says the LORD of hosts.

But for you who fear my name, there will arise  
the sun of justice with its healing rays.

Reading 2 [2 Thes 3:7-12](#)

Brothers and sisters:

You know how one must imitate us.

For we did not act in a disorderly way among you,  
nor did we eat food received free from anyone.

On the contrary, in toil and drudgery, night and day  
we worked, so as not to burden any of you.

Not that we do not have the right.

Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for  
you, so that you might imitate us.

In fact, when we were with you, we instructed you that  
if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that  
one eat. We hear that some are conducting  
themselves among you in a disorderly way,  
by not keeping busy but minding the business of  
others. Such people we instruct and urge in the Lord  
Jesus Christ to work quietly and to eat their own food.

Gospel [Lk 21:5-19](#)

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

## Reflection Process / Questions

- **10 mins Reading** - underline a word or idea that strikes you
- **10 mins Writing** - write what you have heard, write your response to a reflection question(s) that attracts your attention
- **10 mins Sharing / Praying** - share with a friend or pray to God about livingtheword you have heard.
- The Prophet Malachi is upset. Israel has returned from exile, the Temple has been rebuilt, the liturgy is celebrated, and yet the rich are increasingly hurting the poor. He did not expect Israel to be like this. One writer expresses it this way: I know what living for God looks like on 'Sunday', but what does it look like on 'Monday'? How do you integrate 'liturgy' with 'life'? How does Sunday talk with Monday in your life?
- Malachi shares a judgment scene that we will witness at the end of days. There will be a reversal of fortunes for many. How do you understand and interpret 'you who fear my name'. Can you identify fearing someone who loves you greatly? What does it positively cause you to do?
- Paul continues his letter to the Thessalonians. Some disciples were so convinced the 'Day of the Lord' had arrived that they actually retired early! Unfortunately they became 'armchair' critics of others and a 'burden'. They focussed on the shortcomings of others rather than the 'coming of the Lord'. Within the Church community, is your energy focussed on being 'critical' of others? How could your energy be turned toward focussing on Jesus?

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 insurrections, 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."



"By your perseverance,  
you will secure your lives."  
Luke 21:19

- When will the final day arrive is a big question. Jesus and the Gospel writers do not give an answer to 'when' but only 'that' it will happen. The Gospel of Luke challenges us to be ready for the last day. In the time of writing the Gospel of Luke the community had already witnessed Jewish persecution causing many to leave Jerusalem. Many disciples ended up in Rome and were also persecuted there (60AD). The beautiful Jewish temple was totally destroyed (as Jesus predicted) in Jerusalem (70AD). Further persecution occurred at the order of Domitian (80AD). Under such difficult times, apocalyptic writing gave disciples hope that there will be a final victory of good over evil. However this involves a challenge that we are to make good moral choices 'personally' and 'now'. What words in the gospel give you 'hope'. What words challenge you deeply? Do you consider yourself 'ready'?
- Contemporary society does not face many of us with such obvious persecution as the early Christians experienced. Some writers suggest we are no longer faced with a 'red' (blood) martyrdom, but a 'white' (perseverance) martyrdom. What would a 'modern' synagogue or prison be? How do you experience Christians being taunted, threatened, influenced away from Christ? What does it mean to 'give testimony' because of 'my name'?
- Next week is the final week of the liturgical year celebrated by the Feast of Christ The King. We liturgically celebrate 'as if it was the 'end of time'! Imagine the urgency of having only a few weeks to live. How would you live? What would you consider is most important to do? What would be demanded of you in your spiritual life? What do you need to 'do'?
- What is one action that you will do to 'livetheword' this week?