

Every year, on the 33rd Sunday, we have readings that deal with the end-times, the final judgement and the final return of Jesus Christ. That is, they are “eschatological”.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines eschatology as being "concerned with 'the four last things: death, judgement, heaven, and hell'"

These readings, are in some part preparing us for next week, which is the Feast of Christ the King and the last Sunday of the Liturgical year.

But more importantly, they are given to us to remind us of a certain reality.

The reality is that Jesus will return, there will be a Final Judgement when He will administer true Justice and that there is a Heaven and a Hell.

And while today's readings are more to-the-point on the topic, we are reminded of the return of Jesus at every Mass.

In our Creed we say: **He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.**

- in the Mystery of our Faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ WILL COME AGAIN!

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life, LORD JESUS COME IN GLORY!

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, UNTIL YOU COME IN GLORY.

- In the Lord's Prayer: **Thy Kingdom come.**

Jesus does not shy away from the topic of the end of time.

He cautions us that there will be signs that point to His coming, but I'm not smart enough to predict the weather, let alone able to predict exactly when He will come again.

However, there are no shortages of preachers and belief systems that spend a lot of time and effort trying to figure it out.

My personal opinion? Trying to pin-point the return of Christ is a huge waste of time. I do not say this out of arrogance, but in humility, because Jesus Himself told us that this moment is not for us to know, but is for God alone to know.

So any prediction that turns out to be correct will be:

1. pure luck and
2. a very short-lived satisfaction in being right..... because Scripture tells us it will happen in the blinking of an eye, like a thief in the night and at a time when we do not expect it.

With that being said, I want to clarify that the coming of Christ is of **paramount** importance to us and in how we live the here and now.

Of this I am certain: Where I stand with God... whether I die before or if He should come today..... where I stand with God.... at that instant..... is where I will stand with God for all eternity.

Once we stand before God in judgement, we don't get any "do-overs".

Our God is the God of the second chance. In fact, He is also God of the millionth chance, but only as it pertains to our state of life right now, our life on Earth..... So let's get it right in the here and now.

We are called to live as if Christ was coming in the next second. But let's be honest, that is not an easy task.

People aren't very patient.

We get tired of waiting to make a left turn, or for the popcorn to finish in the microwave! Patiently waiting on the Second Coming, that will truly test our endurance.

The promise of Christ to us in today's Gospel that it is **“by our perseverance we will secure our lives”**.

So that's why we gather here for Mass. To be reminded of our dignity as the Children of God, to recall that we are from God and are meant to return to Him and to remember that God loves us and desires us so deeply that is willing to die for us.

That is why we have the Sacraments.... to strengthen us in love for God and for one another. This is most especially true of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.... to get us right with God and to give us a new beginning in Purity and Grace. It is in this Sacrament that we do get “do-overs” and that is a great Gift. And the Sacrament of Holy Communion nourishes us for our daily journey toward God.

So let us continue to pray for the Coming of Christ and His Kingdom. Let us be encouraged today to renew our desire for God, and to be empowered to live for Him in patient endurance.

Prayer Petitions

For the Church: May she, by the power of the Holy Spirit, continue to do God's work and to promote the Kingdom of God. We Pray to the Lord:

For all of our newly elected officials, that they might work together for the common good. We pray to the Lord.

For the safety of... and in thanks giving for... all who put themselves in harm's way for our safety and benefit, those in the military and those who are first responders.

In thanksgiving for organ donors, procurers and transplant teams. We pray to the Lord.

In thanksgiving for God's abundance. We pray to the Lord.

For the success of our annual turkey dinner tomorrow. We pray to the Lord.