

Sunday Readings

16th November 2025

Collect

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,
for it is full and lasting happiness
to serve with constancy
the author of all that is good.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Malachi 3:19-20

Behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven,
when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be
stubble. The day that is coming shall set them
ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave
them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear
my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with
healing in its wings.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 97:5-9. R/. cf. v.9

**R/. The Lord comes to rule the peoples with
fairness.**

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. **R/.**

Let the sea and all within it, thunder;
the world, and all its peoples.
Let the rivers clap their hands
and the hills ring out their joy
at the presence of the Lord. **R/.**

For the Lord comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the world with justice
and the peoples with fairness. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the
Thessalonians 3:7-12

Brothers and Sisters: You know how you ought to
imitate us, because we were not idle when we were
with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without
paying for it, but with toil and labour we worked
night and day, that we might not be a burden to
any of you. It was not because we do not have that
right, but to give you in ourselves an example to
imitate. For even when we were with you, we would
give you this command: If anyone is not willing to
work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among
you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but

busybodies. Now such persons we command and
encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work
quietly and to earn their own living.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 21:28

Alleluia, alleluia.
Straighten up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 21:5-19

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: While some were speaking of the Temple,
how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings,
Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days
will come when there will not be left here one stone
upon another that will not be thrown down.' And they
asked him, 'Teacher, when will these things be, and
what will be the sign when these things are about to
take place?' And he said, 'See that you are not led
astray. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am
he!" and, "The time is at hand!" Do not go after them.
And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be
terrified, for these things must first take place, but
the end will not be at once.'

Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation,
and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great
earthquakes, and in various places famines and
pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs
from heaven. But before all this they will lay their
hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up
to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be
brought before kings and governors for my name's
sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness.
Settle it, therefore in your minds, not to meditate
beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth
and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be
able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered
up even by parents and brothers and sisters, and
relatives and friends, and some of you they will put
to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake.
But not a hair of your head will perish. By your
endurance you will gain your lives.'

The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year C

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

Monday 17th November 2025

Today, it is very clear, we must speak about the end of the world and about the meaning of these readings that have been given to us for this Sunday. First of all, we should say, the end of the world, most likely, will not happen in my lifetime. For two thousand years, some people have been waiting for the end of the world. In every age and time, there are people who expect the end of the world to happen very soon, this year, next year, or very soon. So far it has not happened.

Did early Christians believe in a physical end of the world? Surely they did, and many of them thought it likely to end soon. Is there a more spiritual teaching about the end of the world? Yes, and we must pay attention to it. The deepest teaching about the end of the world is not about its physical ending, but about how you and I should be living now.

The Prophet Malachi in the first reading reminds us that at some point we must all come before the Lord and answer for our lives. Lots of people today no longer believe this. We Christians believe that we have only one life and at the end of it, we shall have to account for this life and how we have used it.

Most of us have not used our lives so very well. Lots of the time we want to use our lives well, but we get distracted. Sometimes we get caught up in desires for power. Sometimes we are just concerned about what others think of us. The reasons for being distracted from the inner goal of a strong spiritual life in God are numerous.

Today, the readings want to remind us to trust in the Lord. If we trust in God, then the sun of justice will arise with its healing rays. That is to say, we come to recognize that we cannot lead strong spiritual lives just by our own will power. Rather, we must ask God to change us and to help us.

What does it mean to be prepared? One of things that being prepared means is that I must be able to stand up for my faith. Probably I shall never be called on to give my life for my beliefs, but I should be willing to do that. What kind of a person am I? This is a question that comes before us on this Sunday. Do I believe in anything? Am I willing to stand up for anything? Do I believe in something strongly enough that I would be willing to die for it?

In the Christian understanding of these passages of Scriptures, the final days of the world are always right in front of us. That means that we must be ready to die now, at this very moment. There is never any time to waste. If we need to repent from some sin, now is the time. If we want to thank God for something, now is the time. If we need to forgive someone, now is the time. The Scriptures tell us that now is the day of salvation. Now is the time when the Lord is with us, bringing compassion and love. Let us celebrate this Sunday as if it is our final Sunday.

St Hugh of Lincoln (1140 - 1200)



He was born near Grenoble in France and entered the Carthusian monastery of La Grande Chartreuse at the age of 25. In 1175 he was asked by King Henry II of England to become prior of a Carthusian house in England, and a decade later he was appointed Bishop of Lincoln, a post which he accepted only when directly commanded to do so by the prior of La Grande Chartreuse. His diocese was the largest in England, and he spent the rest of his life in ceaseless work there. He delegated much authority. He was a friend (and critic) of successive kings, but

also worked with his own hands on the extension of his cathedral. He gained a great reputation for justice, the care of the sick, and the support of the oppressed: he risked his life to help the Jewish community. He died in London on 16 November 1200 and was declared a saint in 1220, the first Carthusian to be canonized.

Hugh's primary emblem is a white swan, in reference to the story of the swan of Stow which had a deep and lasting friendship with the saint, even guarding him while he slept. The swan would follow him about, and was his constant companion while he was at Lincoln.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer for Courage

Dear God, give me courage,
for perhaps I lack it more than anything else.
I need courage before men against their threats
and against their seductions.
I need courage to bear unkindness,
mockery, contradiction.
I need courage to fight against the devil,
against terrors and troubles, temptations,
attractions, darkness and false lights,
against tears, depression, and above all fear.
I need Your help, dear God.
Strengthen me with Your love and Your grace.
Console me with Your blessed Presence
and grant me the courage to persevere
until I am with You forever in heaven.
Amen.