

AWAKEN

Becoming Disciples of the Word

November 17, 2024

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday's READINGS

Daniel 12:1-3
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
Mark 13:24-32

Scan the code to read today's readings. ➡



Opening PRAYER

I want to offer each day, Jesus, my Savior, to the awesomeness of your plan for me. Amen.



Thoughts for REFLECTION

Whose guidance do you seek in discovering God's plan for you?

When are times when you might need help to forgive yourself?



What You NEED to KNOW

Scripture Background

Daniel 12:1-3

The Book of Daniel is complicated by many factors. The Jews do not consider Daniel a prophet because God did not speak to him personally. They believe that God spoke to Daniel in dreams, not visions. The Book of Daniel is considered apocalyptic literature. The word *apocalyptic* comes from the Greek. It describes literature that seeks to give insight primarily through symbolism into the revelation of God's mysteries. You are probably familiar with the apocalyptic Book of Revelation, the last book in the New Testament. Daniel sees Michael the Archangel, who guards Israel and is assured the Israelites will return from the exile. In his final thoughts, we hear one of the few references in the Old Testament to the resurrection of the dead.

Hebrews 10: 11-14, 18

As we continue to listen to readings from the Letter to the Hebrews, we reflect on the priesthood of Christ and are reminded once again that in his perfect sacrifice, Jesus took the sin of the world past, present, and future with him to the Cross. Our assurance that if we seek

forgiveness all sin can be forgiven flows from this understanding. When we reflect on the harm we have caused by our sin, it should be a comfort to know that while we ourselves cannot fix it, Jesus did that for us. Because of the love of our Savior, his grace can heal and restore all the brokenness of this world.

Mark 13:24-32

Taking the first verses of this Gospel out of context, one can understand why many people have an image of the end time as one of destruction. Jesus is using apocalyptic images to emphasize the reality of an end time. The term "Son of Man" is a reference to Daniel 7. The Son of Man symbolically reveals the mysteries of God and eternity. Partnering the last verses with the first, we hear this truth expressed with intensity: Are we ready for the last day, the end times? We need not fear the chaos and destruction that symbolize the end. We are being told to focus our lives each day on the sole purpose of our creation, an eternity of the fullness of love with God.





Points to Ponder

The Eyes of Love

So many images of our death, our personal end time, involve physical pain and suffering, with fire and burning as symbols. This is particularly offered in some of the private revelations of saints. Theologians and biblical scholars offer a different perspective. In his encyclical *In Hope*, Pope Benedict XVI summarizes this understanding. "Some recent theologians are of the opinion that the fire which both burns and saves is Christ himself, the Judge and Savior. The encounter with him is the decisive act of judgment. Before His gaze all falsehood melts away. This encounter with Him, as it burns us, transforms and frees us, allowing us to become truly ourselves.... His gaze, the touch of His heart heals us through an undeniably painful transformation 'as through fire.' But it is a blessed pain, in which the holy power of His love sears through us like a flame, enabling us to become totally ourselves and thus totally of God" (47). Perhaps the words of Saint Paul, "At present, we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face" (1 Corinthians 13:12) are about looking at ourselves through the eyes of Christ.

- How does becoming totally ourselves differ from becoming the best version of ourselves?



[Jesus] gives himself to you . . . to be your food and nourishment.

—Saint John Chrysostom

Strengthen belief in the True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Scan here for Pflaum Eucharist resources.



Connecting **GOSPEL**

and CHURCH TEACHING

Jesus Is the Complete Revelation

Jesus promised us that the Holy Spirit would make known all to us that he has revealed. We trust in Christ's promise and so welcome the developing understanding of the Church's teaching. It makes a distinction between public revelation and private revelation. "Throughout the ages, there have been so-called 'private' revelations, some which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not, however, belong to the deposit of faith.

It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation" (CCC, 67). The phrase "deposit of faith" means the divinely revealed truths given to the Church through Sacred Scripture and Apostolic Tradition. The Church's Magisterium pronounces these truths in a definitive way. The Creed is an example of the deposit of faith. We are not obligated to believe private revelation.

➔ To learn more, refer to CCC, 59–67 or go to Booklet 2, Session 2 in *Growing Faith*.



Closing PRAYER

Lord, often when I recognize the harm I have done, I am overwhelmed with my failure to love as I should. Help me to trust in your mercy. Amen.

FAMILY CORNER

Scan here for parent resources.



Question of the Week

What can you do every day this week to show Jesus he is welcome in your home and heart?



Family Prayer

Help us, Lord, to make loving choices every day as we wait for your return. Amen.