

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.

Entrance Antiphon

He will rule the world with justice and the peoples with fairness.

Psalm

Your endurance will win you your lives.

Gospel

Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you.

All things are passing away: God never changes.

Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing;

God alone suffices.

Teresa of Avila

Let us pray that God will help us to be faithful.

Father of all that is good,

keep us faithful in serving you,

for to serve you is our lasting joy.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:

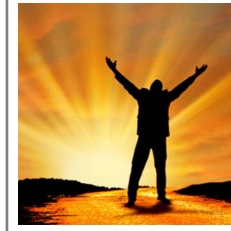
Malachi 3: 19–20; Psalm 97 (98); 2 Thessalonians 3: 7–12; Luke 21: 5–19



'With trumpets and the sound of the horn, acclaim the King, the Lord!'

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Year C, 13th November 2022

For you the sun of righteousness will
shine out with healing in its rays

As we approach the end of the Church's year, today's readings lead us to think about the passage of time and the end of the world. Though outwardly daunting, they provide a message of hope for those who stay faithful to God's love.

The prophet Malachi (**First Reading**) uses stark imagery to portray the fate of those who do not respect the Lord. But the ones who remain faithful to him will see the day that is coming as a time of joy and healing.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, but tells us not to fear wars, persecution, and natural disasters. While these things may seem like the end, in fact they are not: he cautions us not to be deceived by those claiming that 'the time has come'. Even when in difficulty, we are not to worry about what to say: the Spirit of Jesus will give us words and wisdom, as we bear witness to Christ. By staying secure in the love that God has for us, we will be held safe.

Paul presents himself as a model to the Thessalonian church (**Second Reading**), spreading the Good News and earning his keep. He stresses the importance of the whole community working for the good of all, rather than sitting around thinking about the future.

The **Psalmist** is certain of the Lord's coming, when justice will prevail. All creation is invited to join in the joyful proclamation of that coming.

This week, I may like to pray for trust and inner strength, keeping Christ at my side, and responding to him in every moment of my daily life.

We also continue to pray for the peace of the world.



Opening Prayer

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.

Psalm 97 (98)

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.

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.

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

As I begin to settle gently for my prayer, I make sure I am comfortable, taking as long as I need to become still. I intentionally place myself in the Lord's presence. I know he is here with me, and spend a few minutes quietly savouring this special time. Perhaps I sense his warm, tender gaze resting upon me, just like the warmth of the sun's rays.

When ready, I slowly read and reread the Psalm, joining in this joyful song of praise. I pause after each verse, allowing the words to soak in. What am I noticing? How am I feeling?

Perhaps there is a word or phrase that resonates for me? Or maybe an image forms? I ponder this, and speak with the Lord about whatever arises.

I may like to imagine the instruments and the singing as the peoples acclaim the Lord as King. Or perhaps I hear the clamour of all creation giving joyful praise to the Lord: the seas, rivers, and hills; the world and all peoples. Am I able to take part in this song of praise?

If there is something holding me back, I speak openly to the Lord from my heart, just as I would a close friend. I listen to whatever he might be saying to me, too.

Giving thanks for this time, I gently bring my prayer to a close.

Glory be ...

Gospel Luke 21: 5–19

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another; everything will be destroyed.' They put to him this question; 'Master, when will this happen, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived', he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, people will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

I spend a few moments becoming still, asking for the help of the Holy Spirit to guide my prayer. Then I read this Gospel passage slowly and prayerfully.

I notice where my attention is drawn, and pause.

How do I feel? Perhaps fearful; concerned for the suffering I see in the catastrophic events occurring around me this year ...?

Or maybe I respond with hope, trusting in God's protection ...?

I speak to the Lord from my heart, asking for whatever grace I need.

No matter how I feel, I trust that the Lord loves me just as I am. Perhaps I hear Jesus saying: '*Not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your life.*' I can be confident of his loving and merciful care.

As I draw my prayer slowly to a close, I may like to pray with St Teresa of Avila, 'Let nothing disturb you, nothing frighten you ...' (overleaf).