

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

'My words will not pass away.'

Gospel

I keep the Lord ever in my sight.

Psalm

Stay awake and stand ready!

Gospel Acclamation

Father in heaven,
ever living source of all that is good,
from the beginning of time you promised us salvation
through the future coming of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Help us to drink of his truth
and expand our hearts with the joy of his promises,
so that we may serve you in faith and love
and know for ever the joy of your presence.

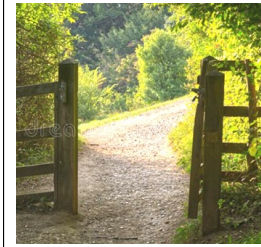
Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:
Daniel 12: 1-3; Psalm 15 (16); Hebrews 10: 11-14,18; Mark 13: 24-32



If you'd like to receive Prego by email each week, sign up at
www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com

ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year B, 17th November 2024

'You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence.'

As we approach the end of the Church year, the readings challenge us to reflect on the 'End Times' and judgement that follows; our own death; and the hope we have in Christ. Today's Scripture reveals the fidelity of our God who stays with us through it all, encouraging us to remain faithful to God's love, even in difficult times.

The poetic, symbolic language of the **First Reading** offers hope to those facing persecution. It includes one of the earliest Old Testament references to resurrection, where the faithful will rise from the dust to 'shine as bright as stars for all eternity'.

Jesus uses similar imagery in the **Gospel** to describe a world beset by turmoil and distress, just like our own. Jesus nevertheless assures his disciples (including us) of his constant presence and his ultimate victory. God's promises will be fulfilled: we can be confident in knowing that we will rejoice with Christ forever.

The Letter to the Hebrews (**Second Reading**) was written to Jewish Christians who were struggling with their faith. It speaks of Jesus as the perfect high priest who offered himself as the final sacrifice for our sins. Through Jesus, we are forgiven and made holy.

The **Psalm** is a hope-filled song of trust that God will offer deliverance from death. It praises God for his care and protection.

This week, let's pray for each other. We ask to follow the Lord's path of life closely, showing it to others through the way we live our own lives.



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 15 (16)

R./ Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever.

I prepare myself for prayer in the way I know best, placing myself consciously into God's presence. Making sure I'm comfortable, I take note of how I'm feeling. I gradually become still, allowing any chatter that's occupying my mind to fade.

I may find it helpful to pay attention to my breathing. I notice its calming rhythm as the life-giving air fills my lungs, bringing with it God's love. I rest quietly here for a while.

When ready, I turn to the psalm and slowly read and re-read it, line by line. I pause at any word, phrase or image that especially touches me. I linger there, letting it seep in. I ponder how it is speaking to me.

Perhaps I think about the 'path of life'. As I reflect over the past year, maybe times come to mind when I've stumbled on the Lord's path, or something has tried to blur my sight of him.

I share whatever arises with the Lord, as one close friend to another. I listen for his response.

With the many challenges and changes of our world – and perhaps challenges and changes in my own life too – I ask the Lord for the gifts I need to 'stand firm' beside him. I pray to know the gladness and 'fullness of joy' that his presence brings.

With gratitude for God's constant presence and protection, I close slowly 'Glory be ...'

Gospel Mark 13: 24–32

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

As I prepare to pray, I entrust any distractions to the Lord. I settle into stillness, perhaps quietly reciting the response from today's psalm as a mantra: '*Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you*'.

I read the passage through slowly until I become familiar with it.

Jesus is speaking to his disciples after leaving the Temple in Jerusalem during the days leading up to his Passion. Perhaps in my mind's eye, I picture myself there. I listen to Jesus, noticing the tone of his voice. I watch the disciples, imagining the expressions on their faces and how they are responding.

What sense do I have of their mood?

How am I feeling as I hear Jesus's words?

Perhaps challenged ... puzzled ... frightened ... absorbed ... comforted ...?

Jesus's words are not meant to frighten his disciples, nor us.

Rather they can offer consolation and hope that God is near, especially when we face difficulties or uncertain times.

Which of his words are staying with me now? I tell Jesus why they are significant, and I listen to whatever he might be saying to me.

I ask the Holy Spirit to keep me watchful, praying for the wisdom and courage always to live by Jesus's teachings.

Giving thanks, I end my prayer with an '*Our Father ...*'