

**SUNDAY GOSPEL  
BIBLE SHARING**



**Wednesday Nov 27 for the first Sunday in Advent**

**OPENING PRAYER: Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.**

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

**READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO Luke  
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36**

**The Coming of the Son of Man.<sup>s</sup>**

25 “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves.<sup>t</sup>

26 People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens\* will be shaken.<sup>u</sup>

27 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.<sup>v</sup>

28 But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”<sup>w</sup>

**The Lesson of the Fig Tree.<sup>x</sup>**

29 He taught them a lesson. “Consider the fig tree and all the other trees.

30 When their buds burst open, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near;

31 in the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.<sup>y</sup>

33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.<sup>z</sup>

### **Exhortation to Be Vigilant.**

34 “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise<sup>a</sup>

35 like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth.

36 Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”<sup>b</sup>

[21:26] The powers of the heavens: the heavenly bodies mentioned in Lk 21:25 and thought of as cosmic armies.

### Notes

a. [21:1–4] Mk 12:41–44.

b. [21:5–6] Mt 24:1–2; Mk 13:1–2.

c. [21:6] 19:44.

d. [21:7–19] Mt 24:3–14; Mk 13:3–13.

e. [21:8] 17:23; Mk 13:5, 6, 21; 1 Jn 2:18.

f. [21:10] 2 Chr 15:6; Is 19:2.

g. [21:12–15] 12:11–12; Mt 10:17–20; Mk 13:9–11.

h. [21:12] Jn 16:2; Acts 25:24.

- i. [21:15] Acts 6:10.
- j. [21:16–18] Mt 10:21–22.
- k. [21:16] 12:52–53.
- l. [21:18] 12:7; 1 Sm 14:45; Mt 10:30; Acts 27:34.
- m. [21:19] 8:15.
- n. [21:20–24] Mt 24:15–21; Mk 13:14–19.
- o. [21:20–22] 19:41–44.
- p. [21:21] 17:31.
- q. [21:23] 1 Cor 7:26.
- r. [21:24] Tb 14:5; Ps 79:1; Is 63:18; Jer 21:7; Rom 11:25; Rev 11:2.
- s. [21:25–28] Mt 24:29–31; Mk 13:24–27.
- t. [21:25] Wis 5:22; Is 13:10; Ez 32:7; Jl 2:10; 3:3–4; 4:15; Rev 6:12–14.
- u. [21:26] Hg 2:6, 21.
- v. [21:27] Dn 7:13–14; Mt 26:64; Rev 1:7.
- w. [21:28] 2:38.
- x. [21:29–33] Mt 24:32–35; Mk 13:28–31.
- y. [21:32] 9:27; Mt 16:28.
- z. [21:33] 16:17.
- a. [21:34] 12:45–46; Mt 24:48–50; 1 Thes 5:3, 6–7.
- b. [21:36] Mk 13:33.

## QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. Recall the time you first heard about the coming of the son of man. How did it affect you?

2. How do we escape the tribulations that are imminent in our daily life?
3. What is one thing Jesus is saying to us in this Sunday's Gospel about how a disciple should speak or act? And what do you need to do or change to be a better disciple?

## **Commentary**

**Today's lectionary passage is situated in a longer apocalyptic discourse in which Jesus warns of coming persecutions and foretells the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple.**

**Jesus' description of future cataclysmic events in Luke 21:5-36 (with Synoptic parallels in Mark 13 and Matthew 24-25) is riddled with symbolic themes and imagery from other Jewish apocalyptic texts. He describes his second coming, the *parousia*, for example, in terms reminiscent of the book of Daniel:**

**I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. (Daniel 7:13)**

**As elsewhere in apocalyptic literature, we find here references to the eschatological crises of persecution, famine and war, impending salvation and judgment, and exhortations to specific actions in the midst of suffering.**

**Judgment, terrors, cosmic signs of the end times. This might seem like a strange way to begin the season of Advent. After all, Advent is a time to prepare our hearts in joyful anticipation of Christ's birth. How can this apocalyptic end-time prophecy of Jesus coming "with power and great glory" (Luke 21:27) introduce Christians' annual commemoration of Jesus coming as a helpless infant? Instead of armies of angels as we have in the birth narrative (2:13), we hear of Jerusalem surrounded by human armies bringing desolation (21:20). During Advent, we celebrate God-with-us — the Emmanuel who comes into the**

**world. Why preface this with talk of “fear and foreboding of what is coming on the world” (21:26)?**

**Starting the season of Advent by reading Luke 21:25-36 brings multiple contrasts into view: The “signs” that will prefigure the risen Jesus (21:25), juxtaposed with the “sign” that is the infant Jesus himself (2:12). Power and glory on the one hand (21:27), humility and helplessness on the other (2:7). A warning that the “nations” will be “distressed” and “anxious” (21:26), set alongside a message of “good news of great joy for all the people” (2:10). As odd as it might seem to draw these contrasting images together, there is wisdom in it.**

**In Luke 21, we find still more paradox in its apocalyptic language. Destruction, death, and betrayal are coming, but hope is there in the midst of it all (21:18-19). Earthly trials and tribulations are portrayed as temporary, and vindication for God’s chosen ones as imminent. Their redemption, Jesus teaches his disciples, “is near” (Luke 21:28). *Both suffering and comfort.***

**Moreover, Jesus reminds his followers that there is always more going on than meets the eye. There is more to reality than they might see at first glance. Not either/or, but both/and.**

**The fact that more is going on than meets the eye is precisely why we must “watch” (21:34) and “stay awake at all times” (21:36). Jesus calls his followers to be prepared and aware. He takes care, though, to point out that such preparedness does not mean we plan every detail ahead of time, as though we could control reality by preparing for every exigency. Jesus himself is the source of strength: “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” (21:14-15).**

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom  
Wednesday, Nov 27 6:30 – 7:30pm  
Weekly on Wednesday  
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting  
Time: Nov 27, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj\\_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY)

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618  
Passcode: 280607