



## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13–19

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 33

### FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a

A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup>See, the day is coming, burning like an oven,  
when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble;  
the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts,  
so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

<sup>2</sup>But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise,  
with healing in its wings.

The word of the Lord.                      or                      Word of God, word of life.

### PSALMODY: Psalm 98

### SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

A reading from Second Thessalonians.

<sup>6</sup>Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
to keep away from believers who are living in idleness  
and not according to the tradition that they received from us.

<sup>7</sup>For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us;  
we were not idle when we were with you,

<sup>8</sup>and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it;  
but with toil and labor we worked night and day,  
so that we might not burden any of you.

<sup>9</sup>This was not because we do not have that right,  
but in order to give you an example to imitate.

<sup>10</sup>For even when we were with you, we gave you this command:  
Anyone unwilling to work should not eat.

<sup>11</sup>For we hear that some of you are living in idleness,  
mere busybodies, not doing any work.

<sup>12</sup>Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ  
to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

<sup>13</sup>Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

The word of the Lord.                      or                      Word of God, word of life.

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#### FIRST READING      *Malachi = MAL-uh-ky*

As the church approaches the end of its year, the prophet's words point us to the end of time, the day of judgment. The warning is simple and straightforward: evildoers may anticipate a devastating end on that day; the faithful will know the dawning of a new and better day. Verse 1 demands to sound as disturbing as verse 2 sounds hopeful. Make the contrast stark.

#### SECOND READING      *Thessalonians = thes-uh-LOHN-ee-unz*

The author tells the people in no uncertain terms to "get busy for God's sake!" There is a kind of scolding tone that will help to carry the significant admonition of verses 6-12. A substantive pause before the last verse might helpfully introduce a more loving, conciliatory tone.

## GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19

The holy gospel according to Luke.

<sup>5</sup>When some were speaking about the temple,  
how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God,  
[Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup>“As for these things that you see,  
the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another;  
all will be thrown down.”

<sup>7</sup>They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be,  
and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?”

<sup>8</sup>And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray;  
for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’  
and, ‘The time is near!’  
Do not go after them.

<sup>9</sup>“When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified;  
for these things must take place first,  
but the end will not follow immediately.”

<sup>10</sup>Then he said to them,

“Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom;

<sup>11</sup>there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues;  
and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup>“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you;  
they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons,  
and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

<sup>13</sup>This will give you an opportunity to testify.

<sup>14</sup>So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance;

<sup>15</sup>for I will give you words and a wisdom  
that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

<sup>16</sup>You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers,  
by relatives and friends;  
and they will put some of you to death.

<sup>17</sup>You will be hated by all because of my name.

<sup>18</sup>But not a hair of your head will perish.

<sup>19</sup>By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

The gospel of the Lord.

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### GOSPEL

This gospel deserves a warning label: Complex Content—Be Prepared. While the various sayings all speak of the end time, they are disjointed. An excellent reading will require some exegetical study; devotional rumination; and attention to pauses that may help the hearer sense the “off the top of my head” nature of the Teacher’s answers.