

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Daniel 12:1-3
Ps 16:5,8-11
Hebrews 10:11-14,18
Mark 13:24-32

Monday November 15

1 Maccabees 1:10-15,
41-43,54-57,62-63
Ps 119:53,61,134,
150,155,158
Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday November 16

2 Maccabees 6:18-31
Ps 3:2-7
Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday November 17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary

2 Maccabees 7:1,20-31
Ps 17:1bcd,5-6,8b,15
Luke 19:11-28

Thursday November 18

1 Maccabees 2:15-29
Ps 50:1b-2,5-6,14-15
Luke 19:41-44

Friday November 19

1 Maccabees 4:3-37,52-59
1 Chr 29:10-12
Luke 19:45-48

Saturday November 20

1 Maccabees 6:1-13
Ps 9:2-4,6,16,19
Luke 20:27-40

Do you have an unending problem? Where's Jesus? In today's Gospel reading, Jesus speaks of his Second Coming. And here he hasn't even finished his first coming! How confusing it must have been to the disciples.

They grew even more confused after Jesus ascended to heaven but delayed coming back. They remembered him saying that "this generation" will not pass away until all these Second Coming events have taken place, yet time passed, the apostles began to die off, and Jesus still had not returned. The misery of living in this world continued.

Think of your own unending problem. Don't you wish Jesus would hurry up with his Second Coming and destroy all evil? Notice what Jesus said: "When you see these things happening, know that I am near, at the gates." He didn't pin down a date.



The final era ("last days") of salvation began on the first Pentecost and will continue until the Second Coming of Christ. It's is the age of the Holy Spirit; Christ's earthly ministry is continued through us empowered by his Spirit.

The lesson in the fig tree is that we can discern when summer is near. In other words, we can discern – in good times and in bad – that Jesus is near to us in his Holy Spirit.

Jesus is right now at "the gate" of your next step on the journey to heaven. A gate is meant to be opened so that we can pass through it. Jesus is opening the gate right now for you – the gate of holiness, the gate of love. Step through it to live in the fullness of the mission he has planned for you here on earth.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What problems are you waiting to be rescued from? Is Jesus really taking too long, or does he have a bigger, better plan?
2. What will you do to become more aware of his nearness, his comfort, his joy and peace to help you endure the long wait?
3. What are the signs that the Church gives us that help us discern the nearness of Christ?
4. What other "fig trees" has Jesus given to you that increase your hope and patience and endurance?

So what was he trying to convey? His nearness!

For the past 2000+ years, we have all been part of "this generation" that will not pass away before his Second Coming. It's the generation of Christian humanity, the Body of Christ on Earth in the form of Church community, the generation of children who have been adopted by God the Father through the sacrifice and resurrection of God the Son.