

**November 14, 2021**  
**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Dan 12:1-3**  
**Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11**  
**Heb 10:11-14, 18**  
**Mk 13:24-32**

## **THE END IS NEAR!**

As we continue our faith-life journey here on earth, the Church always invites us to consider the 'four last things' – **Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell** – as happening to ourselves. This invitation stems from the gospel proclaimed as we approach the culmination of our liturgical calendar year. Thus, we hear today a gospel episode that speaks of the end time and the things that will last.

- We know that we will all die, but **how are we preparing for it now? Is repenting for the sins committed part of the preparation?**
- We will face the judgment seat of God when we die. **Can we humbly say to God that we tried our best doing the mission entrusted to us?**
- I do believe that we all want to be in heaven, not hell, when God gives his final judgment on us. And so we ask ourselves, **"Are the actions and words we are demonstrating everyday connected to God's will and flight to heaven?"** Let us be reminded that the journey to heaven starts here and now while we are still alive. The preparation for our final destination must be done now. We cannot postpone or procrastinate the urgency of the preparation because, if we do, we might end up in the place where fire is inextinguishable/unquenchable.

Three weeks ago, I saw a quote that says: "We often hear – '**Life is short...better enjoy it.**' How about – '**Eternity is long...better prepare for it.**'" The quote caught my attention because it reminds me that I have to prepare well now in order for me to reach my final destination I am longing for – the place prepared for me by God!

**How are we going to prepare for our flight into heaven?** Let me share with you a story.

A Sunday school teacher asked his class, **"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the Church, would that get me into Heaven?"** "NO!" the children all answered. **"If I cleaned the Church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into Heaven?"** Again, the answer was, "NO!" Again the teacher asked, **"Well, then, if I were kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my wife, would that get me into Heaven?"** Again, they all answered, "NO!" **"Well then how can I get into Heaven?"** A five-year-old boy shouted out, **"You have to be dead!"**

Indeed, there is a grain of truth to what the five-year old boy said. If we truly want to be in

heaven and live with the Lord Jesus forever, then we have to start dying now. **Die to what?**

- **We have to die of our selfishness so we can reach out to others devoid of self-interest.**
- **We have to die of our greediness so we can be generous in sharing God's gifts to our faith community.**
- **We have to die of our indifference so we can love without conditions.**
- **We have to die of our ingratitude so we can be grateful stewards of the Gospel.**
- **We have to die of our short-temperedness so patience can grow within us.**
- **We have to die of our 'know-it-all-attitude' so we can learn from others.**
- **We have to die of our 'blindness and deafness' so we can 'see and hear' the call to real Christian discipleship.**
- **We have to die of our anger towards our offender so we can respond to the invitation to forgive.**
- **We have to die of our arrogance so we can be humble servants.**
- **We have to die of our vices so we can increase/flourish in virtues.**
- **We have to die of all the things un-Christian so we can live with Christ now and forever.**

In this Mass, therefore, we ask the Lord Jesus to give us the courage to die from all that are contrary to his values so we can truly live as his disciples/stewards now and for eternity.

God bless and stay safe!