

Lectionary 33 + Year C

November 13, 2022

*The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle:
"Do not be weary in doing what is right."*

The Gospel

- What do you notice in this pericope? What emotions does it elicit?
- God's judgement is never an end in and of itself; it is always in service of mercy. What might be merciful about such circumstances as described here?
- One of the hermeneutical lenses we often employ is the death & resurrection cycle. What resurrection might be coming amidst all this death?
- How does this pericope connect with the themes of this part of the lectionary/sacred calendar?

Malachi

- Malachi is one of the prophetic books of the Hebrew scriptures, specifically the last of the 12 minor prophets (nevi'im). Thought to be written in the Persian period (5th century BCE). The book itself is a guide to correct misbehavior of the Israelites and priests, with six sections of guidance. Overall there is a theme of God's faithfulness and good justice, and an encouragement to then be faithful and do justice in response to God leading the way.
- Why would this scripture be proclaimed on this day?

Psalm

- How does this psalm strike you — how does the tone work with (or against) it? How does the refrain focus us?
- What sort of life experiences might lead to writing a song such as this one?
- Why do you think this song is offered in response to the reading from Malachi?
- Why would this scripture be proclaimed on this day?

2 Thessalonians

- Second Thessalonians is a disputed Pauline letter, perhaps written between 80 and 115 CE, closer to the time the book of Revelation was composed.
- Thessalonica was home to a community of early Christians that Paul originated. The community seems concerned with the eschaton (“end of days”), and who will be included in God’s action at that time.
- Why would this scripture be proclaimed on this day?

Final Questions

- Reflect on the lyrics of the Hymn of the Day and how it brings forth themes from the scriptures of this season.
- Which part of the ordo (Gathering/Word/Meal/Sending) do these texts most deeply connect to? Why?
- What’s the Good News?