

FIRST READING

When that time comes your own people will be spared.

A reading from the book of the prophet Daniel

12:1-3

Prince Michael is the protector of your people,
and he will appear when a time of terrible trouble comes.
That will be the worst time in all history.
Nothing like it has ever happened before.

But your people who have their names written in the book
will be protected.
Many of those who lie dead in the ground will rise from death.
Some of them will be given eternal life,
but others will receive nothing but eternal shame and disgrace.

Everyone who has been wise will shine as bright as the sky above,
and everyone who has led others to please God
will shine like the stars.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

16:5 and 8, 9-10, 11

R. (1) Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

You, Lord, are all I want!
You are my choice,
and you keep me safe.
I will always look to you,
as you stand beside me
and protect me from fear.

R. Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

With all my heart,
I will celebrate,
and I can safely rest.
I am your chosen one.
You won't leave me in the grave

or let my body decay.

R. Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

You have shown me
the path to life,
and you make me glad
by being near to me.
Sitting at your right side,
I will always be joyful.

R. Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

ALLELUIA

Luke 21:36

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Be watchful, pray constantly,
that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Son of Man shall gather his elect from the four winds.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

13:24-32

Jesus said to his disciples:

“In those days, right after that time of suffering,

‘The sun will become dark,
and the moon will no longer shine.
The stars will fall,
and the powers in the sky will be shaken.’

“Then the Son of Man will be seen coming in the clouds
with great power and glory.
He will send his angels to gather his chosen ones
from all over the earth.

“Learn a lesson from a fig tree.
When its branches sprout and start putting out leaves,
you know summer is near.

So when you see all these things happening,
you will know that the time has almost come.
You can be sure that some of the people living today
will still be alive when all this happens.
The sky and the earth will not last forever,
but my words will.

“No one knows the day or the time.
The angels in heaven don’t know,
and the Son himself doesn’t know.
Only the father knows.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle B

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
In your name we pray. Amen

Readings:

Daniel 12:1-3, Psalm 16:5 and 8, 9-10, 11, Mark 13:24-32

Reflection/Discussion:

What do you do to get ready for school each morning?
What do you do to get ready for your soccer game?
What do you do to get ready to go to a party?
What do you do to get ready when a relative is coming to visit?
What do you do to get ready for Jesus?

Today's readings are kind of scary. They sound like they are describing a horror movie. "The sun will become dark; the moon will no longer shine. The stars will fall, and the sky will shake." YIKES! Then it says that Jesus will come back to the earth and he and the angels will take all of the people who have lived good lives to heaven. That part actually sounds pretty cool...if you are one of the people who have lived a good life.

What do you think heaven will be like? (Discuss with the children)
Jesus tells us that there will be no sickness or death. There will be no hatred or meanness. The food and drink will fill us forever. We will never be hungry. There will be only happiness and love. I picture it as a great party out by the ocean. The weather is perfect and everyone I have ever loved is there having fun! I want to make sure I get there. That is one party I don't want to miss!

How do we get to heaven? (Discuss with the children)
I saw a bumper sticker recently that said, "Jesus is coming. Look busy!" It reminded me of when I was in school and our teacher would leave the classroom for just a minute. She would always tell us to behave while she was gone but as soon as she left the room everyone would start talking and playing while one kid acted as the "look-out" watching for her to come back. As soon as the look-out saw her they would give the signal and the rest of us would quiet down and get back to work, pretending we had been perfect angels while she was away. She always knew, though, what we had been up to and we were all punished.

Jesus' second coming will be something like that. He was here on earth but left for a while, telling us to "be good" and carry on His work. However, not everyone has behaved. There are many "look-outs" telling us that He is coming back so we should "look busy" doing His work. One difference...when Jesus returns He will know who was goofing-off and who was doing what they were supposed to do. The ones who were living good lives will be rewarded with heaven.

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This does not mean that we have to be perfect and it certainly won't be easy. Jesus knows that we will make mistakes but if we try to follow His path and are sorry when we mess-up, He will forgive us and we will still make it to the prize.

Activity: Obstacle Course

Materials needed – two skeins of yarn (1 white, 1 any other color), candy, items to be used as obstacles, hand held games (and/or a portable DVD player with a movie), stop watch.

Preparation: Create an obstacle course where the children have to go over, under, around and through things. You can use tables, chairs, blankets, appliance boxes, cones, hula hoops, paper plates, etc. Using the white yarn, create a path through the course that leads to the candy bowl. Using the other colored yarn, create a path that will lead in various spots to hand held games/movie

Activity: Have 1 child at a time go through the obstacle course. Tell them there is a prize at the end if they follow the right path. Give them a set amount of time to complete the course.

After everyone has had a chance to go through talk about how the course is like life: not always easy, lots of twists and turns, etc but if you stay on the right path you are promised a reward: heaven/candy. If you follow another path, though, it may lead to fun but not to the ultimate prize. You can, however, get back on the right track and eventually get there. You have to remember, though, that we don't live forever so we have to be careful not to run out of time.