

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF MALACHI

Behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven,

when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble.

The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts,
so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

But for you who fear my name,

the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

The LORD comes to judge the peoples with fairness.

Sing psalms to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
raise a shout before the King, the LORD.

The LORD comes to judge the peoples with fairness.

Let the sea and all within it thunder;
the world, and those who dwell in it.
Let the rivers clap their hands.

The LORD comes to judge the peoples with fairness.

The hills ring out their joy
at the presence of the LORD, for he comes.
He comes to judge the earth.

The LORD comes to judge the peoples with fairness.

He will judge the world with justice,
and the peoples with fairness.

The LORD comes to judge the peoples with fairness.

THE SECOND READING IS FROM ST PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE THESSALONIANS

Brothers and Sisters:

You know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labour we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you.

It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate.

For even when we were with you, we would give you this command:

If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies.

Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Straighten up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

At that time: While some were speaking of the Temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.'

And they asked him,

'Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?'

And he said, 'See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am he!" and, "The time is at hand!" Do not go after them.

And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.'

Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness.

Settle it, therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict.

You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and sisters, and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

THE REFLECTION

Americans talk of Capitol Hill as a centre of US government, its name comes from the mons Capitolinus (capitol hill) in Rome where the temple of Jupiter, the highest God, overlooked the forum and strongly built on lasting foundations over the low-rise tenements. Similarly, the Jewish temple on Mount Sion would have been the greatest and largest building dominating the city, and impressing visitors when they saw it on the skyline. Stone built and decorated it looked as if it would last forever.

Jesus' revelation of the truth to come would unsettle his people as much as climate change worries us. It is almost too much to take in. Bad news makes us feel low and reluctant to take on challenges to do good things. As we know he promised good news as well, he would rise after his death to prove it. St Paul could say 'Jesus is Lord 'being greater than the Roman emperor. He counsels us to be strong and not fear-the greatest enemy of faith.

It is hard to imagine heaven but seeing all our family, friends and animals at their best is encouraging. We said goodbye to Obi this week, our golden friendly crossbreed dog, who was in pain with arthritis and losing his memory. I look forward to seeing him again, rubbing his soft fur and enjoying his gentle love for everyone he met.

I think we will rise again at our best , we get glimpses of excellence now, someone doing their best and bringing joy to another unselfishly, think of when you patiently listened and felt someone else's feelings. It can take 70 years to be able to do this.