**Notes for Next Sunday**

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

**The Point of this Week’s Readings**

The Old Testament and Gospel urge Christians to be ready for the Final Judgment. The Epistle speaks of the “how” of being ready for the Last Day. The Psalm also looks forward to the joys of heaven.

Psalm (Psalm 16). The psalmist says that he can find refuge in the Lord. That is true for all God’s children. Their life is secure in this world even during difficult times. AND, ultimately they will have the pleasure of being in God’s presence forever.

Old Testament (Daniel 12:1-3). In this reading Daniel speaks of the events of the end times on earth and the Judgment with its results. The events on earth in the end times will be very evil and turbulent. Thankfully, God’s children whose names are in the Book of Life will be able to endure all that will take place. The other topic in this reading is what will happen to people on the Last Day.

Epistle (Hebrews 10:11-25). This text speaks of how Jesus’ once and for all time sacrifice super-cedes the daily repetitious offerings by O.T. priests. It then goes on to urge people to be faithful in their regular worship so that they may be ready for the Last Day.

Gospel (Mark 13:1-13). This reading begins with the disciples admiring the grandeur of the temple and Jesus forecasting its demise as a part of the invasion of enemy forces to destroy both the temple and Israel. Jesus then goes on to speak of warning signs concerning the end of the world.

*For more in-depth commentary on each reading, read the notes found after each text below.*

**Psalm 16**

**Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. ﻿2﻿ I said to the LORD, “You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.” ﻿3﻿ As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.﻿ ﻿4﻿ The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods. I will not pour out their libations of blood or take up their names on my lips. ﻿5﻿ LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. ﻿6﻿ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. ﻿7﻿ I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. ﻿8﻿ I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ﻿9﻿ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, ﻿10﻿ because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One﻿ see decay. ﻿11﻿ You have made﻿ known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand forevermore.**

Psalm 16 elaborates on one of the key thoughts of Psalm 15, namely, dwelling with God. This psalm describes the security and eternal life of God’s Holy One. This is a Messianic psalm which refers first of all to the resurrection of Christ, by which he conquered death for us. However, we can also use this psalm as our personal prayer, because Christ has won all the blessing of this psalm for us. (PBC)

*16:2 I have no good thing.* David emphasizes the Lord as his one source of blessing, a criticism of idolatry. (TLSB)

*16:7 even at night.* Whenever he thinks his situation over in the quiet of the night when all distracting influences are silenced, his inmost thoughts instruct him that he has done the right thing. (Leupold) David prayed and meditated on God’s Word nightly. (TLSB)

*16:8 He is at my right hand.* David writes as though the Lord stands beside him and holds his hand, like a father caring for his son. The Lord is the focus of David’s service and his ally. (TLSB)

*16:9* *heart is glad.* True joy is deeper than mere happiness, for it is based on God’s continued presence. Happiness come and goes, because it is based in circumstances which always change. (LL)

**Old Testament – Daniel 12:1-3**

**“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ﻿2﻿ Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ﻿3﻿ Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.**

*12:1* *Michael.* Michael was charged to care for Israel but this reference may include “new Israel,” the Church. (TLSB)

*12:1.* Jesus quoted from this verse in speaking about events leading up to the final judgment. Matthew 24:21-22 “For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. ﻿22﻿ If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.” (PBC)

Perhaps you have heard somebody describe this world as a madhouse. Actually the world is not a madhouse, but arena, a battleground where a war is constantly raging between the forces of God and the forces of anti-God. There is not a single area of life which has not been claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan and his henchmen. (PBC)

The struggle will continue and even intensify as the time draws closer to the end. The devil and his forces will become ever more desperate to win people over. The world during its tortured centuries of existence has seen distress of many kinds, but nothing like this last distress. These words remind us that being a Christian does not mean putting on rose-colored glasses so that everything looks pink and pretty. Daniel makes it clear that as we contemplate the future there’s no reason for overconfidence. (PBC)

But there’s no reason for despair, either. Not only is there trouble ahead; there’s triumph, too. “At that time Michael… will arise.” Daniel chapter 10 pictured Michael as the great angelic prince who was active behind the scenes of history, working against Satan’s agent in the Persian government. Michael was God’s agent to overthrow those satanic schemes and to guarantee that God’s good will for the returning exiles would be carried out. Here we learn that when the final great distress overtakes the world Michael, God’s angelic champion, will again intervene on behalf of God’s people. (PBC)

Michael will be successful in defending God’s people, His Israel, the spiritual children of Abraham who have been gathered from the east and the west. The huffing and puffing of the enemies will stop when God sends final deliverance at Judgment day. (PBC)

*12:1 book.* God’s book is His family register containing the names of those who have been loved and chosen from all eternity. In short, all who believe. (Exodus 32:32; Psalm 69:28; Rev. 21:27) (PBC)

*12:2 who sleep.* The dead will be raised to live again. Death will not last forever just as sleep is undergone for a time, and is put off at its time. (TLSB)

*12:3* Their glory is a blessing of God’s grace. The progress of that life which shall be after death is better than that which is passed in sorrow and pain before death. (TLSB)

**Epistle – Hebrews 10:11-25**

**11﻿ Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ﻿12﻿ But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. ﻿13﻿ Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, ﻿14﻿ because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. ﻿15﻿ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: ﻿16﻿ “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”﻿ ﻿17﻿ Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”﻿18﻿ And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin.**

*10:11–14* A contrast between “standing” and “sitting.” The Levitical priest always stood, because his work was never finished. (CSB)

*10:11* *offers the same sacrifices.* Because these sacrifices were unable to accomplish what they signified. They could not remove sin, and thus had to be offered over and over again. (CSB)

*10:12* *he sat down at the right hand of God.* In contrast to the work of the Levitical priests, which was never done,, Christ’s work was completed. His one sacrifice atoned for all sins of all time, making any further sacrifice unnecessary (v. 14). (CSB)

 *1013 enemies to be made His footstool.* In biblical times, the conqueror placed his foot on his enemies to indicate triumph. (TLSB)

﻿**19﻿ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ﻿20﻿ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ﻿21﻿ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ﻿22﻿ let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ﻿23﻿ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ﻿24﻿ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ﻿25﻿ Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.**

*10:20* *the curtain, that is, his body.*† When Jesus died, the curtain separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was “torn in two from top to bottom” (Mk 15:38). The curtain symbolizes the body of Christ in the sense that just as the holy of holies was entered through the veil in the temple, so we now have access into the presence of God in heaven through the flesh of Christ offered as an atoning sacrifice for sin. (CSB)

*10:22–25* Five exhortations spring from Jesus’ provision for our reconciliation to his Father: 1. “Let us draw near to God.” 2. “Let us hold unswervingly to … hope.” 3. “Let us consider how we may spur one another on.” 4. “Let us not give up meeting together.” 5. “Let us encourage one another.” (CSB)

**Gospel – Mark 13:1-13**

**As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” ﻿2﻿ “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” ﻿3﻿ As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, ﻿4﻿ “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?” ﻿5﻿ Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. ﻿6﻿ Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. ﻿7﻿ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ﻿8﻿ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. ﻿9﻿ “You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. ﻿10﻿ And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. ﻿11﻿ Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. ﻿12﻿ “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ﻿13﻿ All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.**

Jesus answers His disciples’ question (v. 4) about the destruction of the temple, including descriptions of what the end of the world will be like. The upcoming events of AD 70, when the Romans would destroy Jerusalem (vv 1-23, 28-31), foreshadowed the events at the end of the world (vv 24-27). The close comparison of these events has confused some interpreters, especially those intent on figuring out when Christ would return. As you study chapter 13, bear in mind Jesus’ most important point: judgment comes unexpectedly; therefore, remain faithful. (TLSB)

*13:1-2*Jesus leaves the temple for the last time. Some of the massive stone blocks used in the Herodian temple are still visible at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.

*13:1 massive stones.* Huge stone blocks, some measuring 37 ft long, 18 ft wide, and 12 ft high, and decorated with gold, were used to build Herod’s temple, one of the most impressive man-made structures of the ancient world. (TLSB)

*13:2 not one stone … left.* Fulfilled literally in a.d. 70, when the Romans under Titus completely destroyed Jerusalem and the temple buildings. Stones were even pried apart to collect the gold leaf that melted from the roof when the temple was set on fire. (CSB)

*13:5* *Watch out.* It is clear from such words as “Watch out,” “You must be on your guard” (v. 9), “So be on your guard” (v. 23), “Be on guard! Be alert!” (v. 33), “Therefore keep watch” (v. 35) and “Watch!” (v. 37) that one of the main purposes of the Olivet discourse was to alert the disciples to the danger of deception. (CSB)

*13:7 wars and rumors of wars.* These developments fall within the sovereign purpose of God, who controls the historical destinies of nations. These things must happen, but they do not signify the end, or even that the end is near. (Lane)

*13:8 birth pains.* TLSB note on Mt 24:8 – Birth pains typically become more frequent and intense as the time of delivery approaches. So also it will be in the end times. The severity and frequency of cataclysmic events will increase. (TLSB)

*13:9* Persecution of Christians was common in the first century and is still common today in parts of the world. (TLSB)

*13:10* *first.* Before the end of the world and Judgment day. (TLSB)

*13:10 preaching to all nations.* Jesus announces God’s plan to include the Gentiles. (TLSB)

*13:12 brother will betray.* Anti-Christian sentiment would divide families, even to the point of close relatives handing over loved ones for execution. (TLSB)

*13:13* all men will hate you. This is so because God’s Law offends and because Jesus claimed to be the only way to salvation (John 14:6). (TLSB)

*13:13 firm to the end.* By God’s grace through faith in Christ alone. (TLSB)