

To make your prayer work, make your work a prayer!

Malachi 3:19-20a

Psalm 98:5-9

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Luke 21:5-19

In the first reading the prophet tells of a time coming when the proud and the evildoers will be brought to a fiery judgment. In contrast those who honor and fear the name of the Lord will experience the healing rays of the sun of justice. This will be restoration that brings energy and joy and healing.

The psalmist encourages the faithful to join in the praise to the Lord our King. Even the rivers applaud, the seas resound, and the earth is astir, joined by all that lives within them. When the Lord comes all will receive their just and equitable reward because he will rule the world with justice and the people with fairness.

In the second reading Paul points to the example given to the Thessalonians who have seen his hard work and orderly examples. This is in contrast with some in the community who are unruly and acting like busybodies. All are advised to work quietly and earn their own bread without complaining.



In the Gospel Jesus says that in end times we are not to be misled by false prophets, nor be perturbed by violence in the world. There will be earthquakes, famines, plagues, and even frightening omens in the sky. The faithful are to give witness and will be given the words and wisdom to handle any confrontation. Patient endurance is our saving grace.

**The Father's power will prevail,
While the Son's healing rays will be felt;
The Holy Spirit guides our quiet work.**

Today's readings emphasize that the world and its inhabitants will one day experience great turmoil. Malachi says the evildoers will become like stubble while the faithful will be restored. The Psalmist encourages us to rejoice in God our King for he comes with justice and equity for all. Paul's advice is very simple: work hard for justice, work quietly without complaining. In all of this we are to give witness under the guidance of the Spirit and the examples of Jesus. In this way the fearful omens and signs of nature will not perturb us. Paul complains about those who are always minding the business of others; they involve themselves in places where they do not belong instead of simply working on their own responsibilities. Thomas of Kempis notes that such persons do not understand how to bear the defects and shortcomings of others:

Whenever we encounter shortcomings in ourselves or others we ought to bear them patiently until God ordains otherwise for he knows how to turn evil into good. If you cannot make yourself into the person you really want to be how can you expect others to conform into what you have in mind? We demand others to be strictly corrected but are often unwilling to make personal amends and we seldom judge others with the same criteria we want ourselves to be judged.

(Adapted from Kempis' Imitations of Christ, Book 1, chapter 16)