

November 2021
Ordinary Time
Proper 28



The Diocesan Sunday School Teacher



Welcome

Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
Collect & Readings	1
Memory Verse	1
<i>Bible Study:</i>	
Daniel 12:1-3	
Hebrews 10:11-14	2-4
(15-18) 19-25	
Mark 13:1-8	
<i>Activities</i>	2-4
<i>Questions</i>	2-4
<i>Word Search</i>	4

Greetings My Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Our theme for this week is: Preparing for a Future with God.

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, our readings remind us of the preparations that we should be making.

The reading from Daniel was a prophecy about the events that the Jewish people would face at the end of time. They faced many crises and troubles and may have been worried that their enemies would win. However, they were being assured that God would send angels to defeat their enemies. The people could have hope that their current troubles would not last forever and that those who remained faithful, would be united with God in eternity. This reward for the faithful is also echoed in the words of Psalm 16.

The hope that humanity has, was won for us through the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross. Since we have this hope, Jesus tells us in the gospel lesson that we have nothing to fear. All the events that others may say are pointing to the end of time must not frighten us, because these are only pointing to the new creation that God is building through Jesus Christ. May we prepare ourselves to share in this new, joyful future with God.

Blessings,
The Sunday School Team



Collect & Readings

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 10: 23

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

The Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of eternal life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Daniel 12:1-3

Psalm 16

Hebrews 10:11-14

(15-18) 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

The First Lesson (Daniel 12:1-3)

The Lord spoke to Daniel in a vision and said, "At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Daniel prophesied about a time of great trouble when God would rescue God's people

ACTIVITY:

Sing together:

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world in his hands. (x3)

2 He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.

3 He's got the little tiny baby in his hands. . . .

4 He's got you and me, brother, in his hands. . . .

5 He's got you and me, sister, in his hands. . . .

6 He's got everybody here in his hands. . . .

BIBLE STUDY: Daniel 12:1-3

The question that is answered in today's reading from Daniel is: How does one speak about hope when we face crises and threats to our lives?

The reading follows a series of disastrous events as empires battled each other, and abused power.

Their actions directly impacted the faithful people of Israel (Daniel chapters 10-11).

It may have seemed that the powers of the world would continue unchallenged; but God intervened by sending God's guardian angels to fight on behalf of Israel.

The reading became a reminder that God is still in charge of the world, even in troubled times. God will triumph over the evil forces of this world and God is working out the salvation and liberation of his people. Because God has the whole world in his hands, we can live in hope that God will take care of the future.

QUESTIONS:

Do we sometimes feel afraid? What are some of the events that make us afraid?

Name some of the persons we go to for help?

How can we ask God for help when we feel afraid?

Psalm 16

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; * I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, * upon those who are noble among the people.

3 But those who run after other gods * shall have their troubles multiplied.

4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, * nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.

5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; * it is you who uphold my lot.

6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; * indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; * my heart teaches me, night after night.

8 I have set the Lord always before me; * because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; * my body also shall rest in hope.

10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, * nor let your holy one see the Pit.

11 You will show me the path of life; * in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.



God protects those who steadfastly hold on to their faith.

Those who remain faithful to the end will receive the fullness of joy of God's presence in the end.

The Second Lesson (Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25)

Jesus has purified humanity of our sins and makes a way for us to be reunited with God. Since we can look forward to a future with God, we must prepare ourselves by cleansing our hearts and consciences. We should gather together and encourage each other through worship and good deeds.

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. [And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.]

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

ACTIVITY:

A Future With God
Colouring Pages:

<http://www.anglicandioceseja.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/A-Future-With-God-Colouring-Pages-Proper-28.pdf>



Jesus was teaching the disciples how they were to conduct themselves as the end of time drew near. Disciples were to be alert, discerning and wise as they prepared for the new beginnings that God was bringing into being.

BIBLE STUDY: Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25

The sacrifice of Jesus purifies the sins of humanity. He has defeated sin and death. As a result we have a future with God.

As we prepare for the great day when we will be united with God in eternity, we must prepare ourselves. As individuals, we must cleanse our hearts and our consciences and be baptized.

As the family of God, the church, we must gather together for worship and encourage each other with love and good deeds.

QUESTIONS:

What has Jesus won for all persons?

How do we prepare ourselves for the future with God?

How do we encourage others to share in the future with God?

St. Mark 13:1-8

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.”

St. Mark 13:1-8 Cont.



BIBLE STUDY: ST. MARK 13:1-8

Jesus was answering the disciple's questions about the future. It started with their admiration of the beautiful temple and their disbelief that it could be destroyed as Jesus had said. They needed to know when such a great disaster would happen.

Jesus did not give them a direct answer. Instead, he showed them how they were to live in the present as they prepared for the end.

They were to be wise, and careful about how they interpreted world events. Some individuals would try to use their influence and authority and prey upon their fears, especially of disasters. Others would come bearing Jesus' name and attempt to lead God's people astray. Followers of Jesus Christ must not be naïve or gullible.

They would experience crises and calamities, but they were to pray for discernment, even as they tried to make sense of such events. They were to consider the providence of God when the world is upside down. Such events only point to the new beginning that God is bringing about in the world; a new reality of a new creation built on Jesus Christ. The things of this world will pass away, the 'temples' made by human hands will fall, but that which is built on Christ will last.

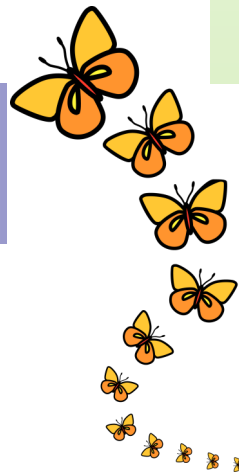
QUESTIONS

Name some of the events that persons thought indicated that the end was near.

Did Jesus say that these indicated the end?

How are the followers of Christ to prepare themselves for the future?

Activity: Word Search Mark 13:1-8



R	R	T	S	N	I	A	G	A	S	A	M	E	N
I	E	G	N	I	R	E	W	O	L	L	O	F	O
S	H	E	D	S	G	N	I	D	L	I	U	B	L
E	T	H	R	E	E	S	A	V	I	L	N	I	V
W	O	S	A	V	E	E	H	O	F	E	T	E	P
A	M	E	N	I	T	V	O	I	C	E	S	E	B
S	F	K	N	E	E	I	L	D	R	W	I	R	I
E	A	A	O	C	P	L	R	I	D	E	G	M	R
M	T	U	I	E	E	O	U	U	G	R	E	A	T
A	H	Q	N	D	N	A	M	B	U	D	X	F	H
J	R	H	E	N	I	M	A	F	Q	N	A	T	R
L	U	T	A	G	R	E	S	Z	U	A	K	E	O
L	O	R	A	I	T	S	S	S	A	J	A	M	W
M	M	A	S	S	I	V	E	A	D	E	C	P	E
A	U	E	N	O	I	T	A	N	A	M	P	L	R
F	R	M	U	O	N	I	G	D	R	E	T	E	P

- Olives
- Birth
- Great
- Fulfilled
- Temple
- Sign
- Mount
- Nation
- Andrew
- Deceives
- Peter
- James
- Buildings
- Rumour
- Against
- Earthquakes
- Famine
- Massive

We hope you found this newsletter informative and useful.

Please feel free to share it with others.

We extend our thanks to all the persons who assisted in the preparation of this newsletter.

Please send comments to:
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