

**THIRTY-THIRD  
SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**YEAR C**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

God,  
you support us  
in good times and in bad.  
Protect us  
when we are laughed at  
for following Jesus.  
Help us say and do  
the right things,  
so that through us  
other people may come  
to believe in your Son  
and make this world  
a place of love and of peace.  
We make this prayer to you  
through Christ our Lord.

**FOCUS OF THE READINGS:**

Our readings focus on fidelity. The first reading, from the prophet Malachi, draws a clear distinction between good and evil, reward and punishment. For the prophet the end is clear—those who remain true, who worship God, will be saved.

The Gospel passage deals with the end time. As we come to the end of the liturgical year, the liturgy takes us back to the question of the First Sunday of Advent, “When will the end of the world come?” Here, Jesus warns that before the end comes, Christians will be tested and tempted by false prophets and antichristian forces. But, as our response to the first reading affirms, nothing can take us from God’s love. Jesus echoes

**FIRST READING: Malachi 3:19-20a**

*A reading from the prophet Malachi.*

Our God says,

“The time is coming when people who do evil and who think they are better than others will be punished.

They will suffer for the evil they have done. But it will be different for those of you who worship me.

You will have justice and healing.”

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSE: Psalm 27**

RESPONSE: *Gently*

O God, noth- ing can take us from your love, \_\_\_\_\_

noth - ing can take us from your love. \_\_\_\_\_

VERSES: to Response

1. I be - lieve that I will see you. \_\_\_ Keep my heart strong. \_\_\_  
2. And when e - vil is a - round me, \_\_\_ I have no fear. \_\_\_

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

1. “You will be saved \_\_\_ for you be - lieve in me. You will be saved. \_\_\_  
2. “Al - le - lu - ia, \_\_\_ for you be - lieve in me. Al - le - lu - ia. \_\_\_

1. \_\_\_ be - cause you stayed with me.”  
2. \_\_\_ be - cause you stayed with me.”

GOSPEL: *Luke 21:7-19*

*A reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

Some of the disciples asked Jesus when the end of the world would come. Jesus said to them,

“Before the end comes,  
lots of things will happen.  
People will come and claim to be me.  
They will say,

‘I am the Christ.

The time for the end of the world is here.’

“But don’t believe them and don’t follow them.  
And when you hear about wars and riots,  
don’t be afraid.

Lots of awful things will happen on earth.

“People will hate you  
because you believe in me and follow me.  
They will put you in jail  
and accuse you of doing wrong.  
Then you can show them  
how strong your faith is  
by telling them about me.  
Don’t worry about what to say.  
I will give you all the wisdom  
and the words you need,  
so you will say the right things,  
and no one will be able to say you are wrong.  
Nothing and no one can hurt you.  
You will be saved because you believe in me  
and have stayed faithful to me.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

that here, “Don’t worry, I will give you the wisdom and words you need.” He assures his disciples,

*You will be saved, for you believe in me. You will be saved because you stayed with me.*

#### REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Invite the children to reflect on the human virtue of fidelity. You might ask them what qualities they look for in a true friend. You might set up some role-playing examples in which a friend must choose whether or not to be faithful. Ask the children to discuss the pros and cons. The point here is not to put the children to the test, but to help them see that fidelity requires choice. The ultimate question is “how would you want a true friend to respond?” Jesus wants us to remain faithful as his true friends. And he promises to help us when we are faced with difficulty in remaining faithful.

The children themselves will be able to supply examples of when they must choose to be faithful. They will frequently couch this in language of “good and bad,” “being honest or lying,” etc. While the reading refers to apostasy or martyrdom, the life experiences of little children are real for their age. Help them develop a sense of fidelity which will serve them well in serious matters later.