

WSC REFLECTION GUIDE

Readings: Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16:5, 8-11
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
Mark 13:24-32

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 15, 2009

Word: **The Kingdom of heaven is for those who have the righteousness of Christ.**

Theme: **We have the righteousness of Christ when we are ready for his coming.** [Accountability]

Promise: ***“Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence; because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful to undergo corruption.”*** (Psalm 16:9-10)

Reflection:

The Theme for the week is: **We have the righteousness of Christ when we are ready for His coming.**

Perhaps the most significant, and certainly the most important, event in our lives is our departure from this earthly life. Yet we tend to sweep the issue under the rug, tucked away in the deep recesses of our minds.

The readings for the 33rd Sunday invite us to reflect on the theme of the end of our earthly journey. We should always be ready when Jesus comes to lead us to the eternal life that He has promised us. We need to pause from our busy lives to consider the limited number of our days here on earth. As the Psalmist says: ***“Seventy is the sum of our years, or eighty, if we are strong; Most of them are sorrow and toil; they pass quickly, we are all gone.”*** (Ps 90:10)

In solitude and quiet reflection, we can come to terms with our life and relationship with God, allowing His word to come alive in our hearts as we examine ourselves. Are we indeed living righteous lives? Each and every one of us has been given a conscience by which to judge if we have followed or transgressed the commandments of God. The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes) states: *“Deep within their consciences men and women discover a law which they have not laid upon themselves and which they must obey. Its voice, ever calling them to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, tells them inwardly at the right moment: do this, shun that; for they have in their hearts a law inscribed by God. Their dignity rests in observing this law, and by it they will be judged.[9] Their conscience is people’s most secret core, and their sanctuary. There they are alone with God whose voice echoes in their depths.”* (GS 16)

We should examine ourselves daily on how we stand before God and how we have lived the life of Jesus Christ day-by-day, by following His Word. If we have committed mortal sin, we must go to confession ASAP; if we have wronged anyone, we must seek pardon. Daily, we should be

aware that Jesus will judge us by every word we have uttered (Mt 12:37) and by every deed - have we fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked, cared for the ill, and visited the prisoners? (Mt 25: 35-36)

As we take time to examine ourselves, amend our sinful past and venture into new life in Jesus Christ; as we renounce our prejudices and develop greater understanding, forgiveness, and love for others, especially our enemies; as we let go of our vested interests and shun the attractions of the world; as we purify our petty passions with prayer; as we savor the Words of eternal life in our hearts, we also celebrate the presence of God in our lives. For ***“His every Word is enduring; all His just edicts are forever.”*** (Ps 119:160)

When we seek the Lord in the solitude of our hearts, He becomes our allotted portion and our cup. With Him at our right, we will never be shaken. He will show us the path to life, abounding joy in His presence, the delights at His right hand forever. (Ps 16:5, 8, 11)

We need to heed what St. Paul says: ***“My prayer is that your love may more and more abound, both in understanding and wealth of experience, so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct you may learn to value the things that really matter, up to the very day of Christ.”*** (Phil 1: 9-10) We should not fear the coming of Jesus for He is our light and our salvation. As we persevere in following His commandments, we should believe that we shall enjoy the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. (Ps 27:13)

Then we can claim the Promise of the Week: ***“Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence, because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful to undergo corruption.”*** (Ps 16:9-10)

Suggested Personal Reflection Guide:

1. How do I prepare for the end of my earthly life?
2. How do I reconcile with others who have hurt me or whom I have hurt?

Next Week’s Daily Mass Reading Guide:

November 16, 2009 (Mon):	1 Mc 1 :10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63 ; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43
November 17, 2009 (Tue):	2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 4:2-7; Lk 19:1-10
November 18, 2009 (Wed):	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15; Lk 19:11-28
November 19, 2009 (Thur):	1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44
November 20, 2009 (Fri):	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Lk 19:45-48
November 21, 2009 (Sat):	1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19; Lk 20:27-40 or Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:46-55; Mt 12:46-50

“Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!”