



CELEBRATING AT HOME
33RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

When the Son of Man appears (Mark 13:24-32)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,
**you came to gather the nations into the peace of
God's kingdom.**

Lord Jesus,
**you come in word and sacrament to strengthen
us in holiness.**

Lord Jesus,
**you will come in glory with salvation for your
people.**

Christ is here,
present among us.

Scripture Reading (Mark 13:24-32)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after that time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.

Reflection - *When the Son of Man appears*

With the approach next Sunday of the Feast of Christ the King and the end of the Liturgical Year, our readings this Sunday take on an 'end times' feel.

In the Gospel Mark presents a vision of the full establishment of the Kingdom and the coming of Christ as the final proof of God's victory. The language is necessarily that of symbol and myth as it describes something yet to come, not an historical reality. But this does not mean that it has no relationship with reality.

The vision is set against the background of a time of distress. Early Christian communities, like Mark's, certainly endured much distress through persecution and suffering and their struggles to follow the teachings of Jesus.

The coming in glory of the risen Jesus together with the great gathering of his people from every corner of the earth, were meant as reassurance to a weary and frightened community of believers. They have followed the way of discipleship, sharing in Jesus' suffering, some to the point of death. One day the final victory will be God's and they will enter with Jesus into the fullness of the Kingdom.

In the meantime, however, disciples have to learn to read the signs of the presence of Jesus in everyday life. Jesus is not sitting passively at God's right hand. Through the Holy Spirit he continues to be actively present in the hearts and lives of believers, and in the universe.

Neither are the disciples to wait passively for the final coming. We wait in patient hope, but not in idleness, because the ministry of making Christ present in every thought, word and action, and every moment of history, continues.

The Gospel ends on a note of uncertain certainty: Christ will come, but we don't know when.

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Prayers of Intercession

You, Lord, are our destiny
and nothing can separate us from your love.

In times of trouble, fear and distress,
help us trust in your power and victory.

Many are hungry and poor this day.
Help us respond to the urgent needs of justice
and peace.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kingdom come.

**Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Closing Prayer

We praise you, Loving God,
for the gift of Christ, our light,
who penetrates the darkness of our uncertainty
and brings us to life.

**Sustain us and strengthen us
by the power and peace of the Holy Spirit.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

May your blessing be upon us, O Lord,
as we place our trust in you. Amen.



Light and Love in the darkness



This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when we cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.



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