

# Sunday Message

32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 6 November 2022 • Psalter Week 4

## SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

LUKE 20:27-38



The Sadducees are out to trap Jesus. They don't believe in the resurrection and want to ridicule Jesus as someone who does.

According to Jewish law, if a man died and left no son, the man's brother had an obligation to father a son for his dead brother's widow. So the Sadducees come up with an absurd case. Seven brothers marry the same woman, and each dies, leaving her childless. When she dies, whose wife will she be in heaven?

Jesus' answer shows up their insincerity. He says that in the next life, after the resurrection, all people will be in relationship with God. There will be no need to propagate the human species, nor will legal arrangements be important.

Jesus goes on to give his teaching about the resurrection. God is faithful to all people, even when they die. God makes a promise for ever, and no force – not even death – can destroy it.

Every Sunday, we celebrate the extraordinary story of Easter. In doing so, we give thanks to the God whose faithful love is stronger than death. ■

### LEARN

By his cross and resurrection, Jesus has destroyed death.

Belief in the afterlife is central to the Christian faith.

In baptism we are linked to the death of Christ, so we are linked too with his new life.

The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope even in the bleakest situations.

### DO

Visit someone you know who is recently bereaved, or write to them expressing your sympathy.

### SAY

**In you, Lord, we live for ever.  
I thank you for your promise  
to me of eternal life.**

### DO

Write down the name of each person you have loved and lost, and pray for them with gratitude to God for their lives.

### REFLECT

**W**e love to have something to look forward to. Some people probably know that there are just forty-nine days left to Christmas. They're already counting them down, loving the build-up to it – the music, excitement, decorations, fun, and, of course, the presents. We can hardly wait.

It's the same if a birthday or other big event is coming up. We may mark it on the calendar with an X or asterisk and wait impatiently for the day to arrive.

It's as if we always need something to look forward to. If you're in school, you look forward to the holidays or finishing with school. If you're in jail, you look forward to getting out. If you're sick, you look forward to getting better. If you're pregnant, you look forward to having the baby. If you're engaged, you look forward to the wedding. If you're working, you look forward to the holidays or weekend or retirement. If

you're at Mass, you look forward to having a short homily.

We are always looking forward. When one event happens, we turn to the next future expectation. As humans, it seems we need to have something to anticipate. It appears that the human heart is always restless, never wholly fulfilled.

Today's Gospel is about looking forward, about anticipation. The Sadducees were a group of Jews who did not believe in the afterlife. One day a group of them come to Jesus and ask him a question to trick him into agreeing with them that there is no resurrection. But Jesus is able to answer their question and reduce them to silence.

We know there are many people like the Sadducees around today who believe that when we breathe our last, that is it. That what we experience here and now is all there is. That when we die,

everything stops. They don't believe in the resurrection.

You could say they have nothing to look forward to beyond the here and now. But we Christians have something to look forward to.

We Christians are graced, blessed with something precious, a priceless knowledge. Because we believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. We believe that the resurrection of Christ means the death of death, so that when we die, we do not pass from life to death but rather from life to life. For us, death is not an exit to oblivion but the threshold to a new, transformed life with Christ in God for ever.

I'm in no rush to get to heaven, but I do look forward to it. And I have it to look forward to. It's the exciting prospect awaiting all of us Christians, in which we can take joy, comfort and consolation. ■



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Let my prayer come into your presence.  
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Almighty and merciful God,  
graciously keep from us all adversity,  
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,  
we may pursue in freedom of heart  
the things that are yours.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

A reading from the second book of  
Maccabees.

There were seven brothers who were  
arrested with their mother. The king tried to  
force them to taste pig's flesh, which the Law  
forbids, by torturing them with whips and  
scourges. One of them, acting as spokesman  
for the others, said, "What are you trying  
to find out from us? We are prepared to die  
rather than break the Law of our ancestors."

With his last breath the second brother  
exclaimed, "Inhuman fiend, you may  
discharge us from this present life, but the  
King of the world will raise us up, since it  
is for his laws that we die, to live again for  
ever."

After him, they amused themselves with  
the third, who on being asked for his tongue  
promptly thrust it out and boldly held out  
his hands, with these honourable words, "It  
was heaven that gave me these limbs; for  
the sake of his laws I disdain them; from him  
I hope to receive them again." The king and  
his attendants were astounded at the young  
man's courage and his utter indifference to  
suffering.

When this one was dead they subjected the  
fourth to the same savage torture. When he  
neared his end he cried, "Ours is the better  
choice, to meet death at men's hands, yet  
relying on God's promise that we shall be  
raised up by him; whereas for you there can  
be no resurrection, no new life."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalms 16

Response:

I shall be filled, when I awake,  
with the sight of your glory, O Lord.

1. Lord, hear a cause that is just,  
pay heed to my cry.  
Turn your ear to my prayer:  
no deceit is on my lips. (R.)
2. I kept my feet firmly in your paths;  
there was no faltering in my steps.  
I am here and I call, you will hear me,  
O God.  
Turn your ear to me; hear my words. (R.)
3. Guard me as the apple of your eye.  
Hide me in the shadow of your wings.  
As for me, in my justice I shall see your face  
and be filled, when I awake, with the sight  
of your glory. (R.)

**SECOND READING** 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to  
the Thessalonians.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and  
God our Father who has given us his love  
and, through his grace, such inexhaustible  
comfort and such sure hope, comfort you and  
strengthen you in everything good that you  
do or say.

Finally, brothers, pray for us; pray that the  
Lord's message may spread quickly, and be  
received with honour as it was among you;  
and pray that we may be preserved from the  
interference of bigoted and evil people, for  
faith is not given to everyone. But the Lord  
is faithful, and he will give you strength and  
guard you from the evil one, and we, in the  
Lord, have every confidence that you are  
doing and will go on doing all that we tell  
you. May the Lord turn your hearts towards  
the love of God and the fortitude of Christ.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Stay awake, praying at all times  
for the strength to stand with confidence  
before the Son of Man.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Luke 20:27-38

(For shorter form, read between > <)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke.

>Some Sadducees – those who say that  
there is no resurrection – approached Jesus  
and they put this question to him, < "Master,  
we have it from Moses in writing, that if a  
man's married brother dies childless, the man  
must marry the widow to raise up children  
for his brother. Well, then, there were seven  
brothers. The first, having married a wife,  
died childless. The second and then the  
third married the widow. And the same with  
all seven, they died leaving no children.  
Finally the woman herself died. Now, at  
the resurrection, to which of them will she  
be wife since she had been married to all  
seven?"

>Jesus replied, "The children of this world  
take wives and husbands, but those who are  
judged worthy of a place in the other world  
and in the resurrection from the dead do not

marry because they can no longer die, for  
they are the same as the angels, and being  
children of the resurrection they are sons  
of God. And Moses himself implies that the  
dead rise again, in the passage about the  
bush where he calls the Lord the God of  
Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of  
Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of  
the living; for to him all are in fact alive."

The Gospel of the Lord.<  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
*(all bow during the next three lines)*  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord,  
upon the sacrificial gifts offered here,  
that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of  
your Son,  
we may honour it with loving devotion.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I  
shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he  
gives me repose,  
near restful waters he leads me.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord,  
we give you thanks and beseech your mercy,  
that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit,  
the grace of integrity may endure  
in those your heavenly power has entered.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.