

Reflection for Mark 13: 1-8

In today's gospel reading we begin a passage from Mark sometimes called 'the little apocalypse'. The type of writing known as 'Apocalyptic' was named after the book of Revelation in its original Greek. It was quite and popular common in Jewish circles in the years around the time of Jesus.

Apocalyptic writings use 'end of the world language about things that are not literally the end of the world' (a quote I heard from a lecturer when I was training to be ordained- I don't remember who he was). Over the centuries, many people have thought that these passages **do** speak about the end of the world, and even believe that they can match contemporary world events to specific symbolic scenes in the Bible. However, in today's gospel, Jesus discourages this view- 'wars and rumours or wars' are **not** signs of the end of the world (Mark 13v7)

So, what is this all about? Apocalyptic may not be **about** our world situation today, but it does speak to us **in** our situation- when the world seems so uncertain and dangerous. We are assured that fear, death, war and pain will not have the last word- the love of God will win in the end. Somehow, in a way that we cannot yet fully know, all we be well.

Revd Mike



NEXT SUNDAY 24.11.2024 Christ The King
10.30 in Church

READINGS: NT Daniel 7: 9-10, 13, 14



OT Revelation 1: 4b-8

GOSPEL John 18: 33-37

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St Thomas, Exeter

17th November 2024

Second Sunday before Advent

10.30 in Church

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

478 The God of Abraham praise

56 Be thou my vision

158 Glorious things of thee are spoken

Tuesday 19th November

7.30pm House Group at Helen's house.

Wednesday 20th November

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 21st November

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd
Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall *postponed*

Friday 22nd November

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

Saturday 23rd November

12.30pm Ladies Lunch at the Royal Oak



Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Daniel 12: 1-3

One in human form said to me, '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 for ever and ever.'

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

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.

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 birth pangs.'

Post Communion

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that

fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

NOTICES

TALKWORKS can help! If you are feeling stressed, anxious, are experiencing ongoing low mood, or are having difficulty sleeping,

NHS TALKWORKS is a free, confidential, talking therapies service helping you to feel better and giving you the tools and techniques to improve your mental well-being.

0300 555 3344 Give us a call and see how we can support you. www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk

The House Group meets fortnightly in someone's house to speak about our faith. Please speak to Ian, Helen or Mic if you would like to come and find out more.

Support for Pensions on Low Incomes

An estimated 880,000 low-income pensioner households eligible for pension credit currently fail to claim it and a deadline is approaching. The government says it is worth an average £3,900 a year, but it is also a gateway to other financial support such as winter fuel payments. If you know a pensioner on a low income, please encourage them to check if they could be eligible for pension credit. This can be done online through www.gov.uk/pension-credit:calculator or people can get advice via phone on weekdays 0800 99 1234

Warm Space returns on Thursdays, from 3pm in the Hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits and a chance to meet other people. A start date will be announced once the administration has been completed. **Also there are more spaces for people to volunteer. See Carys or Ian.** Watch this space for details.