

## Reflection Luke 20. 27-38

A note on the religious and cultural background to this passage:

"The challenge of the Sadducees takes as its starting point an ancient patriarchal practice called "levirate marriage," after the Hebrew word, *levir*, "brother-in-law" (see [Deuteronomy 25:5-10](#)). If a married man died childless, his brother-in-law would take his widow as his wife and have children with her, offspring who in turn would a) carry on the dead man's name into future generations, and b) take care of the widow in her old age. Viewed through this lens, marriage itself was a strategy for dealing with old age and death: a couple's children would provide for them in their elder years, and continue their legacy after they died. The practice of levirate marriage, then, was a way for both a widow and her deceased husband to benefit from this system of care and continuity. On one hand, then, levirate marriage protected widows; but on the other hand, it only did so by effectively treating women as a kind of property, passed on from one brother to another."

From [www.saltproject.org](http://www.saltproject.org)

I think this also raises questions for us about how we care for older people, especially those who need enhanced support, and how we consider those who provide such care in hospital, and in residential and nursing homes.

*Fr David*

### \*\* WINTER MARKET \*\*

Saturday 19th November 12noon-4pm

We are having a table in the Hall to sell baking, jam, chutney etc. Donations would be wonderful. We will also be selling coffee and tea in the Hall. Volunteers to help in any way would be appreciated. Contact Judith for information.

### NEXT SUNDAY 13.11.2022 Remembrance Sunday

**SERVICES:** 10.50am in the Churchyard, then into Church for Communion.

**READINGS:** OT Malachi 4: 1-2a  
NT 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13  
GOSPEL Luke 21: 5-19



### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

6th November 2022

3rd before Advent

10.30am in Church

### Today

10.30am Sung Eucharist.

*Hymns for today*

296 Let all the world in every corner sing.

15 All my hope on God is founded.

321 Love divine.

7-9pm St Thomas Community Association  
AGM in the hall.

### Wednesday 9th November

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

### Thursday 10th November

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30am Knit & Natter. See notices.

### Friday 11th November

9.30am Morning Prayer.

10am Staff Meeting.

11am Prayers around the War Memorial.

1pm Trevor Smith's funeral in church.

### Saturday 12th November

9am Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers.



## 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; here he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Job 19: 23-27a

O that my words were written down!  
O that they were inscribed in a book!  
O that with an iron pen and with lead  
they were engraved on a rock for ever!  
For I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;  
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,  
then in my flesh I shall see God,  
whom I shall see on my side,  
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.  
My heart faints within me!

## 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the

temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you? But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

## Luke 20: 27-38

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.' Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that

the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as 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 of them are alive.'

## 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**

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## NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high.

**Knit and Natter.** From now on through autumn and winter the group will meet at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

**Community Larder** is receiving donations on Tuesdays from 10-11am. On Sundays there will also be an opportunity to bring donations to the 10.30 service.

**House Group** Fortnightly on Zoom. New people are always welcome; see Ian for zoom details.

**As** the weather gets colder we will be making a decision about where our Sunday worship should be. Would you please let the clergy and churchwardens have your thoughts about staying in Church or moving to the Hall. Thanks to those who have already said something.

