

SECOND-LAST SUNDAY IN CHURCH YEAR Luke 21: 5-36 Mt. Cal, West View 11/13/16

Theme: The End?

+ **Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +**

Our Text is taken from the Gospel reading for this day; from the record of Saint Luke, the 21st chapter:

Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it – Luke 21:21

Take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a snare, for it will come upon all who dwell upon the face of the earth – Luke 21: 34-35

Jesus predicted the Trump presidency. How many people were fleeing to the mountains of Tibet, thanks to his election? Maybe none, but I heard on the News radio that a couple who were great Clinton supporters in Texas sold everything but the one car, and have plans to go all the way to Argentina. There is a better choice; after all, not only are there high mountains, after WWII the high ranking Nazis also escaped to Argentina. Just saying. Back to the predictions of Jesus. How many people Googled™ their itinerary to flee to Canada? That was bigger than the mountain escapees, but apparently no takers to go ahead with said plans. Trump also promises to build a wall to keep people out. If he gets the Mexicans to pay for it, is it a bad thing? ***“Flee to the mountains, ... those inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it”*** Is this not the 21st verse of the 21st chapter of our gospel reading for today? Oh wait, Jesus said “Judea”, not America! We can relax now.

Some cannot. They really see this election as the final straw to break the preverbal camel’s back and force Gods Hand into action to bring about the end of days, striking the land with a decree of utter destruction. I, on the other hand, do not. Why? Because I have read my Bible, not taken someone else’s bad interpretation and word for it. You should do the same. Take what I tell you today and compare it to the Word of God and see what the truth is.

There were some who were commenting on how great everything seemed in the Temple; how it was adorned to the nines, and that God surely was blessing them for their devotion to Him in providing a great place of worship. Underlying thread – God has to bless us because we did such great things for Him. This is quickly disputed by Christ, for it is not the vain things of this world we should be celebrating, but the eternal things of God. This world will pass away, and yes, even our very nice house of worship will crumble and fall down as this world is destroyed and the new world granted unto the faithful. That does not mean we neglect it; certainly fix what needs to be fixed and adorn what needs to be adorned to the glory of God, but rest not in this as a way of currying favor with Almighty to spare you when the end comes. No, these worldly actions mean nothing for salvation. However, this holy house is the place where salvation is found: in the preaching of the unadulterated Word of God, in the Sacraments of Baptism and Altar Supper. Salvation is found in the work of Christ alone, Who shed His body and blood for the remission of all sins, and your confession in this one true faith makes you forgiven and able to enter into eternal glory when Jesus does come again.

The Trump presidency is NOT the catalyst to bring Jesus from the right hand of God to us even though He may indeed decide to come now, or even before the inauguration. Scripture is quite clear, “*And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,*” well, we did just end hurricane season, “*people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on world*” well, the protesters match this verse. “*For the powers of the heavens will be shaken*” nothing shook yet, “*And then they will see the Son Man coming in a cloud with power and at glory.*” Wait, when all this happens, Jesus will come, in such a way that we will ALL see Him? “*Now when these things begin to take place, and straighten up and raise your heads, because your*

redemption is drawing near.” Oh, He is going to come, but the *redemption is drawing near.*

Just near, people. Birth pains, remember?

Yet, I ask this as well, if a trump presidency means Christ comes, how can this be a bad thing? Oh, it’s bad for those fearing the coming of Christ. So then, the path and task is very clear. We must, today, make America great again, by telling people about Jesus Christ and Him as the Savior from all this doom and gloom apocalyptic foreshadowing. Trump is not the anti-Christ that is bringing Christ to us in speedy fashion. Our sins are what is bringing Christ speedily to us, and we continue to pray, “Come quickly, O Lord.” So now is the best time to tell your fellow Americans repent and be saved, not because Trump will be in office, but because sins are still rampant in this world, and need to be satisfied with the Blood and merit of Jesus Christ alone before we can enter into the New World of Heavenly bliss. The message is “remove sins,” not “Remove Trump,” or even “Remove Obama.” They are not the personification of sins any more than you are. They are however sinners as you and I are and need our prayers and our support to rule after The Father’s great pleasure, to the maintenance of righteousness, and to the hindrance and punishment of wickedness, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Prayers for our President, our congress, our Supreme court Justices and the ones to be appointed soon that they may make proper decisions to keep the peace and follow our constitutional rights to the full; Prayers for our Nation that it may be healed of its schism and work as one in the kingdom of the right-hand; Prayers for our congregation that it may continue to be a beacon of light to this community looking for peace; Prayers for our Church that it might reach throughout the world to bring the light of Salvation in Christ Jesus to dark areas which never heard of Jesus. These are the prayers we need to offer each and every day as well as prayers for ourselves, that we would continue to keep our faith in the Word alone, trust in the

Sacraments of God to give us forgiveness and eternal life, which in turn give us peace in our days. If you do this, study God's Word to the full and not be swayed by the ways of this world and the devil to pry it from you, you can overcome the world. This is the promise of Almighty God to you, Watch and pray, and you will see His coming. In His most Holy Name we pray.
AMEN.

+ AND NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING
KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH CHRIST JESUS. AMEN+

Offering / Prayers

There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of judgment