

Prayer Gathering for 33rd Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change;
courage to change the things we can;
and the wisdom to know the difference.
Strengthen our trust in your eternal care for our lives.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

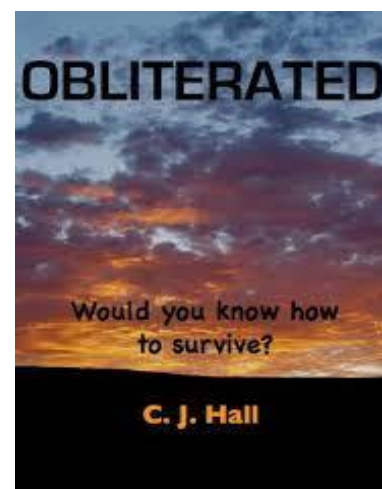
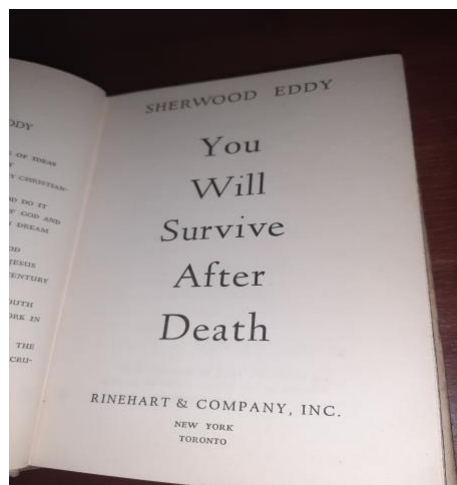
"All that you see here – the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

Jesus' frightening prediction about the Temple, which was a treasure to the Jewish people, came true 40 years after he said this. Of the things you treasure, what do you most fear will be lost or destroyed? How realistic is that fear?

"Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you... It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute."

What allows you to trust that God could get you through any trial you may have to face? When do you find it hard to muster that amount of trust in God?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

"They will put some of you to death... You will be hated by all because of my name... but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."
Jesus is saying that though I may be killed, not a hair on my head will be destroyed. On the face of it, this is nonsense. What does this mean to you? Does it comfort you? If so, how?

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

That our faith may always look toward eternity... and focus on all that cannot pass away;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all leaders will remember that earthly power is fleeting, and only what pleases God can last;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all who are overwhelmed with fear and anxiety will find their grounding in God;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may look toward the end of time with hope and gaze toward heaven with joy;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all who are attempting to amass wealth may remember that only spiritual wealth can last;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who are sick... for those who are nearing death... for those whose lives feel empty;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our beloved dead... ...and for all who are mourning a loved one...
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the needs we now share with our Maker in silence...
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

READING 1

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi

Lo, the day is coming,
blazing like an oven,
when all the proud and all evildoers
will be stubble,
and the day that is coming
will set them on fire,
leaving them neither root nor branch,
says the LORD of hosts.

But for you who fear my name,
there will arise the sun of justice
with its healing rays.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

While some people were speaking about
how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings,
Jesus said,

*"All that you see here--
the days will come when there will not be left
a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."*

Then they asked him,

*"Teacher, when will this happen?
And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?"*

He answered,

*"See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying,
'I am he,' and 'The time has come.'
Do not follow them!*

*When you hear of wars and insurrections,
do not be terrified; for such things must happen first,
but it will not immediately be the end."*

Then he said to them,

*"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues
from place to place;
and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.*

*"Before all this happens, however,
they will seize and persecute you,
they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons,
and they will have you led before kings and governors
because of my name.*

*It will lead to your giving testimony.
Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand,
for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking
that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.*

*You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends,
and they will put some of you to death.
You will be hated by all because of my name,*

*but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.
By your perseverance you will secure your lives."*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Luke, chapter 21