



Saturday 09 Oct 2021

Saturday of the twenty-seventh week in Ordinary Time Year 1

First Reading

JI 4:12-21

A reading from the prophet Joel

Put the sickle in because the harvest is ripe.

The Lord says this:

'Let the nations rouse themselves, let them march
to the Valley of Jehoshaphat,
for I am going to sit in judgement there
on all the nations round.

Put the sickle in:
the harvest is ripe;
come and tread:
the winepress is full,
the vats are overflowing,
so great is their wickedness!'

Host on host
in the Valley of Decision!
For the day of the Lord is near
in the Valley of Decision!
Sun and moon grow dark,
the stars lose their brilliance.
The Lord roars from Zion,
makes his voice heard from Jerusalem;
heaven and earth tremble.
But the Lord will be a shelter for his people,
a stronghold for the sons of Israel.

'You will learn then that I am the Lord your God,
dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain.
Jerusalem will be a holy place,
no alien will ever pass through it again.'

When the day comes,
the mountains will run with new wine
and the hills flow with milk,
and all the river beds of Judah
will run with water.
A fountain will spring from the house of the Lord
to water the wadi of Acacias.
Egypt will become a desolation,
Edom a desert waste
on account of the violence done to the sons of Judah
whose innocent blood they shed in their country.
But Judah will be inhabited for ever,
Jerusalem from age to age.
'I will avenge their blood and let none go unpunished,'
and the Lord shall make his home in Zion.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 96:1-2. 5-6. 11-12. R. v.12

(R.) Let the just rejoice in the Lord.

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
the many coastlands be glad.
Cloud and darkness are his raiment;
his throne, justice and right. (R.)
2. The mountains melt like wax
before the Lord of all the earth.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all peoples see his glory. (R.)
3. Light shines forth for the just
and joy for the upright of heart,
Rejoice you just, in the Lord;
give glory to his holy name. (R.)

Gospel

Lk 11:27-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Happy the womb that bore you! Happier still are those who hear the word of God.

As Jesus was speaking, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said, 'Happy the womb that bore you and the breasts you sucked!' But he replied, 'Still happier those who hear the word of God and keep it!'

Reflection By Fr John Lovell

Today's first reading spoke of the Valley of Jehoshaphat. If you've been to Jerusalem, you will have seen this valley which is just outside the eastern perimeter of the old walled city, very close to the Mount of Olives. According to the Prophet Joel, this is the place where the Last Judgement will occur.

No-one knows exactly *when* the Last Judgement will occur, but by the way the world is going some might wonder if it's going to be fairly soon. The most important thing though, is not the time or the place, but being ready at all times because we'll each face a personal judgement when our life in this world is over, and later-on participate in the general judgement at the end of time, and this will involve every human being who has ever lived.

Our best way of preparing for this is by imitating the example and seeking the help and guidance of Our Lady, who heard the Word of God and kept it.

We live in a world where everyone seems to have an agenda nowadays, which can often be political and set neighbour against neighbour. Yet, for the people of God, there ought to be only *one* agenda, living and sharing the Good News as the disciples of Christ.

People who follow their own political agendas are rarely happy and often in conflict with others. So let's keep life simple and straight-forward by just following the Lord's agenda, since that is our calling. If we do this, our lives will be focused and purposeful, our hearts will be at peace, and we'll face the judgement seat of God with confidence and love.

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