

# TRINITY NEWS

## **Pentecost 26 Preparing for the End Luke 21:5-19**

The whole of this section *purports to* present a continuous flow of Jesus' teaching on end-time matters in Jerusalem. It has apocalyptic imagery that requires the insights of an interpreter of end-time matters. That is, someone who is familiar with the apocalyptic imagery prevalent in Judaism at the time of Jesus. "Apocalyptic" goes beyond the usual discourse of a people. It paints pictures in the sky that blaze with color and herald an immense and overwhelming drama that is about to unfold. The colors and the imagery change often but the air of crisis and expectation remains, hanging in front of the people like a standard brought by a herald from another age.

End Time stuff may contain bizarre apocalyptic elements, but it is usually grounded in the life-experience of a people, albeit it with expansive dreams of the future that go beyond their life experiences. Matthew 23:1-3 and Luke 21 follow the "Little Apocalypse" at Mark 13:1-37. Luke gives his own distinctive shape to the Markan material. We should remember that all the Gospel writers have their own theological intentions and style. But they are all searching for the most effective and accurate way of conveying the meaning of the Jesus story. That is, the meaning that Jesus gave to both his story and their personal and communal stories and also to the contours and content of the unfolding Reign of God. The final working out of God's plan was both a passionate concern for the first Christians and also a source of strength, meaning and identity in the crises that confronted them daily. The audience is left unclear in Luke, though it must include the disciples who are addressed throughout as "you" by Jesus. Jesus continues to teach in the Temple and he does not leave it as in Mark 13:3. The emphasis is on encouraging the disciples to strengthen their resolve for the interim while they awaited the End Time drama to burst open the curtains of their stage of history and reveal all.

## **End-Time Notes Luke 21:8-24**

The end does not come without some warnings though according to Paul it may come unannounced like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians). "Wars and rumors of war" were part of the scene in the first century, just as they were in the 20th century, the bloodiest century in human history.

The Last Moment will be decisive, but the unfolding process has no timetable. The patterns of daily life are mirrored here in the midst of the dire happenings predicted by Jesus (cf. Revelation 7:1-17). The warning about being misled (Luke 21:8) always has current applications in every generation. They are to be witnesses to Christ and faithful to the script that he has drawn verbally for them. The hugely encouraging words at Mark 13:11 are incorporated here. An added emphasis is the assurance that as they have been faithful to Jesus, so he will be there for them when they are on trial and at the hour of their death. When they are tested, the words will be given to them by the Spirit of Jesus, to use Luke's term (Acts 16:7). Then they can truly witness to Christ when they are sorely tested. The one from the Cross will share their cross "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34-38).

**God is the only fortune-teller that I trust because he "knows my going out and my coming in" before I know it and after I know it. May "the mind of Christ our Saviour" be your ultimate assurance, and may you rest in your trust in God, our only anchor with his Christ that we have as we traverse "the world's tempestuous seas".**

**Bishop Arthur Jones**

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**NEXT  
WEEK'S  
READINGS:**

Jeremiah 23:1-6;  
Psalm 46;  
Colossians 1:11-20;  
Luke 23:32-43



**THIS WEEK:**

**Wednesday.**

- Bible Study, 10:00am

**NEXT WEEK:**

- NCCP Sunday, 9:30
- Joint Thanksgiving service, 6:30 p.m., Union Church of Manila.

**TO PLAN:**

**November 24.**

**Thanksgiving Dinner, 7:30, Parish Hall. Get your tickets now @ the Parish Office.**