

November 16, 2025



Daily Reflections

Photo by Sr. Karin Nürnberg, CSJ, from the Abbey St. Hildegard in Eibingen, Germany

A THREAD OF HOPE

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's First Reading and Excerpts from Today's Gospel

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

MALACHI 3:19-20a

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?" He answered, ... "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. ...

“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.”

LUKE 21:5-7, 9, 12-19

Reflection

The first reading today is from Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament in the Christian Bible. The prophet describes a period of a great cleansing fire when evildoers will be destroyed and God will bring justice for those who have suffered from the tyranny of religious leaders. In the last line there is a thread of hope: *“But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays.”*

In the Gospel, Jesus describes a time when the beautiful Temple will be destroyed and there will be wars, insurrections and natural disasters. Jesus’ disciples will be persecuted and thrown into prison because they trust in Jesus’ name. His promise is to give them wisdom when they speak; they will receive divine help that will baffle their persecutors. Even if they are betrayed by family and friends, their perseverance will save them because they trust in Jesus Christ. Just as Malachi proclaimed, *“There will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays.”* Clinging to their thread of hope, they will be rescued and brought to glory in God. We live in a world of political and religious conflict that may seem overwhelming. Like the communities who were encouraged to trust in God by Malachi and Jesus, we are exhorted to seek the day of the *“sun of justice”* and the gifts of God that will *“secure our lives.”*



The Sun of Justice
Image created by David Robinson, SJ

For Pondering

Today's readings resonate for us as we hear reports of great suffering, persecution and killing of innocent people. Wars have destroyed homes, hospitals, schools, and places of worship. The earth itself has been bombed, destroying natural habitat and sacred places of beauty. Millions of people are forced to wander on foot, searching for a place to shelter and find food for their children. Wandering on the edges of life, they cry out to our Tender God for mercy. Who will take notice of their suffering? Who will be the hands of God to reach out and offer compassion and friendship, to listen and hold one another in care? May we be the thread of hope for our 'dear neighbor,' a multitude of people in desperate need.

For Prayer

To be near God is my happiness, I have made the Lord God my refuge.

THE COMMUNION ANTIPHON: PSALM 73:28

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

Support CSD

***Do you have 5 minutes to help the Center for Spiritual Development shape a new program? Just reply to this email with the word SURVEY and we will send you the link to respond.
THANK YOU!***



Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



[Visit Website](#)

[714-744-3172](tel:714-744-3172)

[Join Mailing
List](#)



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street | Orange, CA 92868 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)