

# Year C - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Luke 21:5-19

*Your endurance will win you your life.*



Some people were talking about the beautiful stones used to build the temple and about the gifts that had been placed in it.

Jesus said, "Do you see these stones? The time is coming when not one of them will be left in place. They will all be knocked down."

Some people asked, "Teacher, when will all this happen? How can we know when these things are about to take place?"

Jesus replied: "Don't be fooled by all those men who will come and claim to be me.

They will say, 'I am Christ!' and 'Now is the time!'

But don't follow them.

When you hear about wars and riots, don't be afraid.

These things will have to happen first, but that is not the end.

"Nations will go to war against one another, and kingdoms will attack each other.

There will be great earthquakes, and in many places people will starve to death and suffer terrible diseases.

All sorts of frightening things will be seen in the sky. "Before all this happens, you will be arrested and punished. You will be tried in the Jewish meeting places and put in jail.

Because of me you will be placed on trial before kings and governors.

But this will be your chance to tell about your faith.

"Don't worry about what you will say to defend yourselves.

I will give you the wisdom to know what to say.

None of your enemies will be able to oppose you  
or to say that you are wrong.

"You will be betrayed by your own parents, brothers, family, and friends.

Some of you will even be killed. Because of me you will be hated by everyone. But don't worry! You will be saved by being faithful to me."



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Jesus reminds us that he is always with us



**Introduction:** • Once again in today's gospel, Jesus promises the gift of his peace to those who are faithful followers. The peace that Jesus offers does not avoid challenge or conflict but is the peace that comes from being persistent in our faith in Jesus and from sharing the good news through our actions and words.

**Message:**

- Today is the second last Sunday of this liturgical year. As we approach the new year, Jesus is prompting us to reflect on the year we are finishing and also what is to come in the future.
- Jesus paints what can be a very frightening picture, especially for children, where it would seem that all will go wrong: war, earthquakes, starvation, terrible disease, followers of Jesus arrested and punished.
- Despite all of this, Jesus tells us not to worry and assures us that he will give us the wisdom to know what to say.
- It is not always easy to follow Jesus' way of love and to build our lives around his teachings, but Jesus promises to give us the strength and courage that we need. He promised us that the Holy Spirit will come and help us. (John 14.26)

**Discussion:**

- Begin by checking with the children if there are any words or phrases that they don't understand. Also check if there are any words or phrases that stood out for them
- Some things only last for a short time. I wonder if you can think of things that last only a day, a week, or a year
- I wonder if anything will last forever (God's love, compassion, forgiveness)
- There are many things that we have no control over - the future is one of those things. I wonder what things we do have control over
- We know that Jesus is with us every moment - that is something can be very comforting when we feel worried or unsure. As disciples of Jesus, we can be certain of his love and help.

