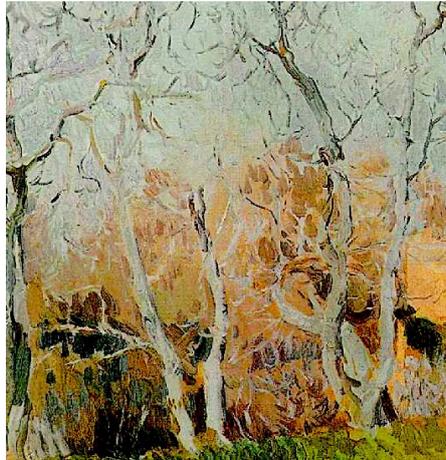


33<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*THE FIG TREE – Joaquin Sorolla 1910*

**THE GOSPEL Mark 13:24-32**

*Heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away.*

Cars will  
rust and fall apart.  
Condos crumble to the ground.  
Even the football teams will eternally fail.

Everything will go:  
investments,  
worries,  
honors,  
pains,  
until that time.

Let us listen to each other  
and to the pain in all the world.

Please fill us with your Word,  
which will never pass away  
and let us take you  
to everyone

till the end of time.

You  
are love  
and love remains.

**THE FIRST READING Daniel 12:1-3**

*But the wise shall shine brightly  
like the splendor of the firmament.*

Look up  
at the splendid universe,  
light years away from  
the dimness of  
our earth.

The wise are shining like the stars  
giving out points of light,  
showing the way.

How did they  
attain such  
heights?

By offering a cup of water,  
or their house,  
or their  
food,

or anything they could find.

They gave away their time, their money their  
lives; they never counted the cost.  
They took every gift they had  
and also what they hadn't,  
and spent a lifetime  
teaching others  
how to use  
what is  
given.

Lord,  
Let these stars  
guide us.

**THE SECOND READING Hebrews 10:11-14, 18**

*Where there is forgiveness of these,  
there is no longer offering for sin.*

The priests in ancient times  
did the same rituals,  
again and again.  
They did what  
they could

to  
destroy  
sin.

O  
Jesus,  
just that one time

you  
offered perfect  
sacrifice: the fight  
fought, the battle won.  
Sure redemption was ours,  
free for the taking. It was then,  
is now and will be through all ages.

Thank you, Lord,  
for your love for us. (*Anne Osdieck*)



*'I keep the Lord ever in my sight'*

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,  
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,  
for it is full and lasting happiness  
to serve with constancy  
the author of all that is good.

### **REFLECTION**

As the Church's year draws to a close, the readings this Sunday speak both of endings and eternal beginnings. All of them offer hope and direction to communities living in the midst of turbulent change and uncertainty.

The Prophet Daniel in the First Reading offers hope of resurrection to a people facing persecution for their faith.

The Psalm is a song of confidence in God as a refuge and shelter. It would have been sung and prayed by those facing sickness and death, and by their loved ones. These comforting words speak of a joyful life when we keep close to the Lord, even in the midst of our difficulties.

In the Second Reading, the early Christian community is taught that there is no longer a need for the ancient priestly practice of offering sacrifices for the forgiveness of sin. Christ is our one Eternal Priest and offers us a life of forgiveness and freedom from the burden of sin.

Jesus is preparing his disciples for a time of loss, tribulation, change, and ultimately the new life of Resurrection (Gospel). Although dramatic change will soon fall upon him and the disciples, Jesus's teaching also reminds us that it is the nature of our world always to be facing moments of death and resurrection. The eternal words of Jesus will never pass away, and these are our comfort and refuge for the uncertain times we live through now.

This week, let us pray for each other, that we will forever keep the Lord in our sight. May we be living signs of Christ's love and forgiveness in our world, and may we face these challenging times with confidence.

*You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right-hand happiness forever.    Responsorial Psalm*

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