Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

27th November 2026

First reading

Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21:2

'Each was judged according to what they had done.
I saw the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven.'

I, John, saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84(83):3. 4. 5-6a, 8a. ℟ Revelation 21:3b

Behold, the dwelling place of God is with his people.
My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh cry out to the living God.
Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself
in which she sets her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.
Blessed the people whose strength is in you, they walk with ever-growing strength.

Gospel Acclamation **Luke 21:28**

Alleluia, alleluia.
Straighten up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.
Alleluia.

Gospel **Luke 21:29-33**

‘When you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.’

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

We live in a world of flux, of rapid and bewildering change, changes in society, changes in the church, miracles and menaces of digital wizardry. Many people find change disconcerting and unsettling. In the midst of such challenging change we need some kind of spiritual anchor, some solid truths that can be trusted. We find change easier to manage if at least some things remain the same.

Jesus told us to expect change, not just gradual change as in the seasons of the year, but change on a cosmic scale, hugely significant change. He talks of heaven and earth passing away, the most radical change of all. Then he promises that something will never change. “My words will never pass away.” Throughout all of life the word of the Lord remains a constant, because God is faithful. In the midst of flux the Lord abides; when all else is whirling, our connection with God, our trust in him, keeps us steady and on course to meet God face to face.