



# PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

*Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee November 2023*

## When All is Said and Done

*By S. Carla Mae Streeter*

November brings us into the close of the liturgical year and the end of Ordinary Time. The Church, in her wisdom, has been instructing us on how to be a disciple in light of the Paschal Mystery. Jesus' dying and rising is ever before her eyes, and ours too.

The rhythm of our lives flows from struggle and pain to joy and celebration. No one is excepted, be they believer or non-believer. The difference is that believers and disciples have a clue as to why life is that way. It was that way for the One who came to be with us and who loves us so. Our faith in him shows us how to 'hang on.' The 'seat belt' that keeps us secure in this roller coaster of life is his gift of Easter peace. He has us tight and safe...we need not fear, though the storm rages around us and in us.

The readings explore this wild ride coming to an end. They reveal the final victory of his Kingship. He is the king who suffers with us and brings us through the storm.

Servant King,  
Your arms are stretched out wide . . .  
No one is excluded from your wide embrace.  
There is room for the most wretched,  
the most abandoned, the most hopeless.  
Is there room for me?

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Your heart is open,  
like a window without shutters,  
Catherine says . . .  
Where I can climb in and hide safely anytime.

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Your hands are wounded . . . so are mine.  
I've used them to grasp, to hold with tightened fists.  
Gently pry open my clenched fists  
and kiss them . . .  
So I grasp and hold on to nothing but yourself.

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Your feet are wounded . . . so are mine.  
They've taken me to places you would not go.  
They've taken me far from you,  
Until I felt lost and alone.

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Your head so wounded, pierced and aching,  
has plans for me . . . and in your will is my peace.



Thank you to Associate Steve Gilbert for this month's reflections.

**Sunday, November 5, 2023 | Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Alleluia verse: "You have but one Father in heaven and one master, the Christ".

In Malachi, the priests are warned about what happens if they "do not listen."

As leaders, they "have turned aside from the way, their instruction has "caused many to falter." Desiring exaltation, they are denounced and cursed for not giving glory to God. Am I listening to Christ, following the way, and glorifying Him?

In Matthew, Jesus talks about the Pharisees, "Everything they do is to attract attention... take the place of honor at banquets... and having people call them Rabbi." Can I remain humble and teachable? Or am I more concerned with status and prestige?

**Sunday, November 12, 2023 | Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Alleluia verse: "Stay awake and be ready! For you do not know on what day your Lord will come." Wisdom says, "whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed...". Do I pray for God's help, staying ready and alert for God's response? Do I pray for Wisdom to guide me, remaining vigilant on the path laid ahead? In Matthew, the "foolish ones" forgot the lamp oil and missed the wedding feast. The Lord did not know them! Am I preparing and laying the groundwork so the Lord will know me?

**Sunday, November 19, 2023 | Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Alleluia verse: "Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me bears much fruit." In Proverbs, a fortunate man has found a faithful, hard-working wife who "brings him good, and not evil....". Her "loving hands" reach out to the poor and needy. A wise woman whose talents glorify God! Contrast this to the third servant in Matthew who squanders the opportunity to enlarge the one talent given. Am I squandering the gifts God has provided me?

**Sunday, November 26, 2023 | Christ the King – Solemnity**

Alleluia verse: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!" In Ezekiel, our Lord is the Good Shepherd to us, his lost sheep. Jesus loves and heals us, calms our fears, and has given his life for us. In Matthew, Jesus says, "...what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me." There is Christ in each of us, do I look for the Christ within? What I do to others, I do to Christ.