

Today's Readings 14C God's Future, Not Ours

If you have followed the news about Brexit, you know the world is about to end! The world will soon dissolve into utter chaos! So prepare for the end!

Well, maybe not as quickly as we think. Yes, the world as we know it will end someday, but the future that lies before us who believe in Jesus Christ is not as bleak as the world thinks. The future that lies before us is God's future—the only future that counts. And that is what the readings of today's liturgy are all about.

The Lord's Power Shall be Known to His Servants

In our first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, the Prophet announces a day of salvation for his people who have recently been released from seventy years of exile in Babylon. They have returned to Jerusalem, but things are not going well. The city is still in ruins, and the Temple has been destroyed. But in the midst of this disheartening situation the prophet tells God's people to rejoice and be glad. Exult with Jerusalem, he says; for God will bring prosperity upon her once more. The people will find their comfort in Jerusalem, God's City, and all God's servants will know the Lord's power.

Let All the Earth Cry out with Joy

In today's responsorial psalm we sing: "Let all the earth cry out with joy." This is the perfect response to the first reading. If God is going to bring about salvation for us, then let all the earth cry out with joy to God. The Psalm speaks of the wonders of God: "Shout joyfully to God all the earth, sing praise to his glorious name, proclaims his glorious praise." These words capture the trusting hope of those who believe in Christ; for if God rules, we can be confident that no matter how dire things appear, all will be well.

Peace to this House

In today's gospel, Jesus sends messengers ahead of him to prepare his way. He is on his way to Jerusalem to bring about the restoration that Isaiah speaks about in today's first reading. As he makes his way to the Holy City, he sends messengers ahead of him with an announcement of peace. The peace Jesus brings and which we announce to the world is not peace as the world understands it. It is the fullness of peace that only God can accomplish. We enjoy the beginning of that peace and reconciliation in Jesus Christ, and so we proclaim it to the world. But the fullness of that peace is yet to come, and when it comes all will be well.

A New Creation

We have been listening to St. Paul's letter to the Galatians for the past month, and today we hear the final part of that letter. As Paul concludes this great letter, he summarizes his message in a simple phrase: "a new creation." God has done something new in Jesus Christ. God

has brought about a new creation. All who have been baptized into Christ have entered into God's new creation of Grace and Life. And because we belong to this new creation, we know that all will be well.

Yes, it was a tough week last week with Brexit, a discouraging week. But for us who belong to God's new creation in Christ and patiently wait for the fullness of peace God will bring, there is always reason for hope; for our hope is grounded in God rather than ourselves.

Father Matera