

Apostles' Creed:

"He will come again to judge the quick (living) and the dead"

The End of Evil

Responsive Scripture Reading: Psalm 10: 1-2, 12-18

1Why, O Lord, do you stand far off?

Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

2In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor

— **let them be caught in the schemes they have devised.**

12Rise up, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; do not forget the oppressed.

13Why do the wicked renounce God, and say in their hearts,

"You will not call us to account"?

14But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief, that you may take it into your hands;

the helpless commit themselves to you;

you have been the helper of the orphan.

15Break the arm of the wicked and evildoers;

seek out their wickedness until you find none.

16The Lord is king forever and ever; the nations shall perish from his land.

17, 18 O Lord, you will hear the desire of the meek;

You will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear 18to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed, so that those from earth may strike terror no more.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

24 Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; 25but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. 26So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' 28He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

36Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

Matthew 24:37-42, 46

Jesus said: 37For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 38For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, 39and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. 40Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

41Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.

42Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

46Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives.

2 Peter 3:8-10

8But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

9The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. 10But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Romans 2:12-16

12All who have sinned apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.

13For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous in God's sight, but the doers of the law who will be justified. 14When Gentiles, who do not possess the law, do instinctively what the law requires, these, though not having the law, are a law to themselves. 15They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, to which their own conscience also bears witness; and their conflicting thoughts will accuse or perhaps excuse them 16on the day when, according to my gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

Amos 5:24

24But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

John 3:16-18

16"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.