

# WORD FROM THE PASTOR



## THE LORD WILL COME BE CONFIDENT AND STAY AWAKE

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, we are approaching the end of the liturgical year. Each year, the Church announces to us the shift towards the new world to come soon. The prophet Malachi in the 1st reading addresses believers who no longer know very well where they stand. Men have long believed they could hope for immediate justice, retribution during their lifetime. But we had to face the facts: the righteous who remain faithful to the Lord are persecuted; on the other hand, the ungodly and the supporters of evil prosper. But God has good news for us: evil will not have the last word. Believers should not despair. **One day, God will demonstrate that He knows how to make the difference: He will prevail over the forces of destruction in the world. This will be the long-awaited establishment of God's justice.** It will mark his victory over darkness, over evil and over death. Jesus announced that this salvation is not only for the faithful; it is offered to all humanity. The Lord patiently waits for all to be converted to His love.

In the time of Saint Paul, it was thought that the return of the Lord was soon. For some, it became an excuse to do nothing. It was felt that there was no point in making plans, undertaking or working. In today's Gospel, we heard about catastrophes: there will be the ruin of the temple in Jerusalem, wars, famines, persecutions.

On this Day of the Poor, the Pope calls us to true solidarity with displaced or exiled people. **“The Lord is always very present at the heart of our lives. No trial can separate us from His love. When everything goes wrong, He is the one who gives us the courage to work to build a fairer and more fraternal world.** In this time of violence and in our days of weakness, we find it difficult to recognize it. The day of the Lord seems to be late. But let us never forget: There is no other savior to wait for than Jesus who died on the cross and rose again.

**Jesus warns us of difficult times. We will have to fight against the forces of evil that seek to turn us away from him.** The danger will also come from the “entertainments of this world” which risk leading many astray. This Sunday's liturgy reminds us that we are invited to move forward humbly and courageously by resourcing each day in the Word of God. This Word is “Light for our steps”. Every Sunday, the Lord invites us to come to the Eucharist, the source and summit of all Christian life. **Then He sends us to act like Him and with Him in the service of others. It is with Him that we will be able to remain alert to bear witness to the hope that animates us.**

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*Very Rev. Father Lucien Eugene Pierre, Ph.D. VF*