

Dear Padre,

I was taught that when we die, we will spend some time in purgatory and then go on to heaven. I notice some of our hymns say we will be raised on the last day. I'm confused.

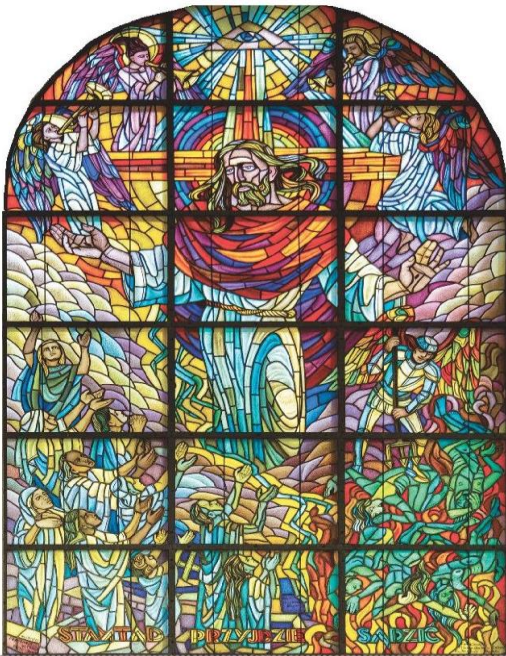
It is not surprising that there is confusion about the issue. There is a difference between judgment and resurrection, even though they are obviously connected. Some people think of these two things occurring at the same time. Our Catholic teaching separates them, to some extent.

The teaching says there are two kinds of judgment. The first is that which occurs at our death and is called "the particular judgment." In this judgment

we may go to heaven, hell, or purgatory. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* puts it this way: "Each man receives his eternal retribution in his immortal soul at the very moment of his death, in a particular judgment that refers his life to Christ" (CCC 1022).

The second judgment is the general judgment that occurs at the end of the world. The resurrection of the body will take place at this judgment when our particular judgment is confirmed and our soul and body are reunited. The hymns that say we will be raised on the last day refer to the general judgment, as do most of the Scripture passages about judgment.

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ADAM JAN FIEGELSHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

How is Jesus' voice discerned? "Many will come in my name," the Lord says, but they are not to be followed: wearing the label 'Christian' or 'Catholic' is not enough to belong to Jesus. We need to speak the same language as Jesus: that of love, the language of the you.

HOMILY, VATICAN BASILICA, NOVEMBER 17, 2019



Our Parish Community

November 13, 2022

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Mal 3:19-20a

2 Thes 3:7-12

Lk 21:5-19

The Day Is Coming

Who does not get excited when they know that the day is coming? Which day? A wedding day, the birth of a child, the last day of school, the first day of retirement. We all look forward to special days.

Ancient Israel looked forward to the day of the Lord, that day when everything would be set right. Enemies would be scattered, the sick would be healed, the poor would know comfort, and all people would experience peace. Even though Israel had suffered terribly, God had made promises to their ancestors, and God always keeps promises. Initially, they expected that day to be one of punishment and retribution for their enemies, while they would enjoy vindication and blessing. Today's first reading asserts that Israel will enjoy no preference. If they sin, they also will face the righteous anger of God.

In the Gospel passage, Jesus describes the terrifying events that will precede the destruction of the temple. This was probably less a prophecy of a future event than it was a warning of the suffering they might have to endure as his followers. Such suffering would pave the way for the fearful day of the Lord. If they persevere, such affliction would be purifying for them rather than punishing. Though the reading does not include mention of the day of the Lord, it would have been in the minds of those who heard Jesus' words. Many would believe that God's ancient promises were about to be fulfilled.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ✦ God works through people to set things straight. How might God be working through you?
- ✦ Reflect on this verse: "By your perseverance you will secure your lives."



MARTIN RING CATCHER/SHUTTERSTOCK