

# 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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Proper 28

Year C

## The Collect of the Day

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

## A Reading from Malachi 3:13-4:2a,5-6

"Your words have been stout against me, says the LORD. Yet you say, 'How have we spoken against thee?' <sup>14</sup> You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the good of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts?' <sup>15</sup>

Henceforth we deem the arrogant blessed; evildoers not only prosper but when they put God to the test they escape." <sup>16</sup> Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another; the LORD heeded and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and thought on his name. <sup>17</sup> "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, my special possession on the day when I act, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. <sup>18</sup> Then once more you shall distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

**4:1** "For behold, the day comes, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2</sup> But for you who fear my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. ... <sup>5</sup> "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their

children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse."

## **Psalm 98:5-10**

*Cantate Domino*

- 5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity

## **A Reading from the 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is living in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> we did not eat any one's bread without paying, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you. <sup>9</sup> It was not because we have not that right, but to give you in our conduct an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: If any one will not work, let him not eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. <sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work in quietness and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup> Brethren, do not be weary in well-doing.

## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke 21:5-19**

And as some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, <sup>6</sup> "As for these things which you see, the days will come when there shall not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down." <sup>7</sup> And they asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign when this is about to take place?" <sup>8</sup> And he said, "Take heed that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is at hand!' Do not go after them. <sup>9</sup> And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified; for this must first take place, but the end will not be at once." <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup> there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. <sup>12</sup> But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. <sup>13</sup> This will be a time for you to bear testimony. <sup>14</sup> Settle it therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer; <sup>15</sup> for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup> You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and kinsmen and friends, and some of you they will put to death; <sup>17</sup> you will be hated by all for my name's sake. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> By your endurance you will gain your lives.