



First Reading: (*Dan 12:1-3*) Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Ps 15:5, 8-11

R./ Preerve me, God, I take refuge in you.

Second Reading: (*Heb 10:11-14, 18*)

Every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single

sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, then to wait until his enemies should be made a stool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Gospel: (*Mk 13:24-32*) Jesus said to his disciples, "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things



taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away before all these things take place. Heaven and earth

will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

REFLECTION

Today's readings speak of the Final reckoning or judgement. Three things are underlined here. 1) There is the day of reckoning. All have to face it. Nobody will be able to escape it or hide from it as the temporary settings and domicile will be destroyed and all will stand in front of the creator without anything to hide them. 2) God is just and therefore the judgement will be according to each one's deeds: good deeds deserving eternal reward and evil deeds deserving eternal damnation. God is merciful too. Once the personal reckoning time has come, the only thing that can help to receive the Mercy of God is the prayers and sacrifices offered for the purpose. The unique sacrifice has been offered by Christ, the prayers and sacrifices offered on the altar by priests in the name of Christ, also helps in obtaining forgiveness and mercy. 3) Nobody knows the time and the manner and so the need to be always prepared. When will the reckoning be nobody knows, and so Christ insists on the need to be always ready to face it. It is an uncertain certainty. That all will face death and judgement is certain; but the time and manner is uncertain.