

**ICCH**  
**International Catholic Community of Heidelberg**  
St. Michael  
Kirschgartenstr. 35, 69126 Heidelberg Südstadt  
06221/13020 – office Fr. Christof Heimpel

**Today's readings:**  
Mal 3:19-20a | 2 Thes 3:7-12 | Lk 21:5-19

*Welcome Father Peter*

## November 13, 2016 – 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

As we come to the end of the Church's liturgical year, our Sunday Scripture readings are filled with apocalyptic images that may well terrify us with their intensity, honesty, realism, and practicality. As strange as this literature may seem to us, it is a dramatic witness to the tenacity of faith and hope among the people of God. In today's Gospel, the signs of the end are threefold: the appearance of false messiahs; wars, tumults, and international conflicts; and natural disasters with cosmic terror. There is no area of God's creation so remote as to be unaffected by God's actualization of his divine intention.

Jesus spoke about the earth-shattering catastrophes including the persecution, deliverance, and betrayal of the disciples. He also spoke about the many who will come in his name to bring quick fixes to the great dilemmas of his and our time. Jesus is clearly no stranger to the horrific forces still on the prowl in our world. The terror they evoke is overcome by the assurance that he knows his own. He went to the Cross to make that assurance trustworthy. It is not stoic determination that gets us "gain of soul," but faithful reliance on his promise of his grace being sufficient in weakness, a grace at work in everything for the salvation of the soul. Remember that Jesus spoke of the soul not as fixed but "gained." The soul is that inward capacity in which the divine and human connect in a lifelong process of anchoring and maturing and enduring – enduring that will not flinch in the face of suffering.

If apocalyptic literature shocks us, it may well be for good reasons. Maybe we need to realize that time is short, that the Lord truly does come like a thief in the night, and that we must radically change our ways today, not tomorrow. And yet we often remain so uncourageous, shunning any form of conflict and struggle. We hide our Catholic Christian identity for fear of "offending" others or of being labeled Christian or Catholic. Have we stopped to realize that maybe some things in this world are truly worth fighting for, and even dying for?

*"By your perseverance  
you will secure your lives."*

As we near the end of the liturgical year and are confronted with the ultimate things in today's Scripture readings, let us never forget that we are called to give witness through our daily living. Amid painful and prolonged suffering, when there can be seen on the horizon of predictable history no relief from disaster, faith turns its face toward heaven not only for a revelation of God's will but also for a vision of the end of the present misery and the beginning of the age to come. That thought alone is a cause of consolation, joy, and hope in the midst of the storms of our times.

*[Source: shortened from <http://saltandlighttv.org/blogfeed/getpost.php?id=72533&language=en>]*

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**CONFESSIONS** – Receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation this Sunday, November 13, after Mass.

**ELISABETHFEST ON NOVEMBER 20** – As we participate in this annual celebration in honor of St. Elisabeth, a joint celebration of all the parishes and social institutions of Südstadt, we invite you to come to Mass together with the German community **at 11am in St. Bonifatius** (with some contributions by ICCH). Afterwards, we're invited to stay for a cup of coffee, cake or some lunch. *Please note: There will be **no ICCH Mass at St. Michael!*** St. Bonifatius is at Wilhelmsplatz, HD-Weststadt, near to the tram stops "Christuskirche" and "Römerkreis Süd".

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If you would like to be added to our email list please send your contact information to:  
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