

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 16, 2025

A model for you.

Justice with its healing rays.

Be perseverant.

-rvb.

Tuesday, 11/11 – Veterans Day - A prayer for our Veterans.

Oh God, our heavenly Father, you have blessed us with brave men and women who are willing to defend our freedom. May your protection and grace surround them each day. Let your healing hand be upon those who suffer wounds and injuries. May those who have made the ultimate sacrifice rest forever in your holy presence. Comfort the families who mourn and are left to remember the previous lives of their loved ones. Help us to honor and support them. Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made on behalf of the American people by our sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, and friends. Amen.

Seek balance and be a model for others. A sound mind in a sound body wrapped in the spiritual blanket of God's love.

Seven principles for living in balance.

1. **Attitude** – do you view stressful changes of your daily lives as a threat or as a challenge and opportunity. “He who lived in concentration camps can remember those who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a person but one thing: the last of human freedoms – to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances – to choose one's own way.” -Victor Frankl.
2. **Accountability** – have a strong accountable point of view, do not avoid problems, and are willing to own the part they play in a situation. “People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I do not believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want and if they can't find them, make them.” – George Bernard Shaw.
3. **Commitment** – Balanced people live and work with a strong and clear sense of purpose. They view themselves as having a meaningful role to fulfill and hold a strong inner belief in its importance. “When you are inspired by some great purpose, some extraordinary project, all your thoughts break their bonds; your mind transcends limitations; your consciousness expands in every direction; and you find yourself in a great, new and wonderful world. Dormant forces, faculties and talents become alive, and you discover yourself to be a

greater person by far than you ever dreamed yourself to be.” - Patanjali.

4. **Supportive Relationships** – At the core of our being, we are social creatures who thrive on meaningful, caring, and affirming contact with others. “Give of your hands to serve and your hearts to love.” – Mother Teresa.

5. **Service** - We all know how good we feel when we do something to help others. “The only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.” -Albert Schweitzer.

6. **Personal Mastery** – People who understand the importance of personal development and who have cultivated a high degree of self-mastery are the ones most able to sail through challenging times with confident balance. “As human beings, our greatness lies not so much in being able to remake the world...as in being able to remake ourselves.” -Mahatma Gandhi.

7. **Faith** – A spiritual outlook toward life is common among people who live in balance. Having a spiritual frame of reference or reverence develops our faith, confidence, and trust and reduces the intensity of toxic, worrisome emotions and destructive behaviors. “Faith is the opening of all sides and every level of one’s life to the Divine in-flow.” – Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Avoid moral decay, brush up on your bible. -church marquee.

Inspired by a road sign, Need gutter cleaning, go to confession. -rvb

“It is in Jesus that we live, move, and have our being.” Acts 18:27.

Roger J. Vanden Busch

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Reading 1

Malachi 3:19-20a

Lo, the day is coming, blazing like an oven,
when all the proud and all evildoers will be stubble,
and the day that is coming will set them on fire,
leaving them neither root nor branch,
says the LORD of hosts.
But for you who fear my name, there will arise
the sun of justice with its healing rays.

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

Today's readings in general reflect on the need for balance in our Christian lives and spirituality = the already, not yet – thus balance. We cannot stop being good and upright daily, and we should keep an eye on our mortality.

We are to be models of Christ for one another, seeking to live a balance between the already and not yet.

A Rabbi said to his students, “You need two pockets.” “Why?” they asked. The Rabbi responded, “In one pocket you need the text that says, “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return,” and in the other pocket you need the text from the Psalms that pray, “Remember you are a little bit less than the angels.”

Today’s readings reflect the need for balance in our Christian lives. We are reminded to stay the course and to mindfully prepare for the Parousia – the End Time; we are to be vigilant, endure, and continue in the mission of apostolic service to our loved ones and the community at large as a model. The reading from Malachi means “my angel,” or “my messenger.” Beginning with the book of Genesis and the creation stories, the universe proclaims and exalts the goodness of the Lord. Continuing with the prophets, bringing messages of love, rebuke, and hope. In the New Testament, John the Baptist is God’s messenger, Jesus is the message of the Covenant, and his Father has created each one of us. Malachi’s message is: The day of the

Lord will reverse the fate of both groups. The faithful and righteous will experience the same healing rays of the sun. The notable evangelist, Robert Schuller gives life and meaning to Malachi: “We are not on the walk of faith long before we encounter frustrations, obstacles, and obstructions. Then what? Then it is time to hang on to the one powerful, positive word – ENDURE! To endure means, inch by inch, anything is a cinch. To endure means, there is no gain without pain; to endure means, when faced with a mountain, I will not quit. I will keep on striving until I climb over, find a pass through, tunnel underneath, or simply stay and turn the mountain to a gold mine with God’s help. To endure means, I must look at what I have, not at what I have lost.”

We pray for patient endurance and wait for God’s will. Patient endurance is holy, serene, enduring to the end, being perfected along the way, looking at the greater context and perspective. It increases our hope, waiting on Jesus, and being willing to labor and willing to wait – seeking a balance. However, a frequent utterance may be heard in today’s world, “Lord, give me patience, and give it to me right away.”

Responsorial Psalm

[Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9](#)

R. (cf. 9) **The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.**

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and melodious song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Let the sea and what fills it resound,
the world and those who dwell in it;
let the rivers clap their hands,
the mountains shout with them for joy.

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Before the LORD, for he comes,
for he comes to rule the earth,
he will rule the world with justice
and the peoples with equity.

R. The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice.

Reading 2

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Brothers and sisters:

You know how one must imitate us.

For we did not act in a disorderly way among you,
nor did we eat food received free from anyone.

On the contrary, in toil and drudgery, night and day
we worked, so as not to burden any of you.

Not that we do not have the right.

**Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you,
so that you might imitate us.**

In fact, when we were with you,
we instructed you that if anyone was unwilling to work,
neither should that one eat.

We hear that some are conducting themselves among you in a
disorderly way,

by not keeping busy but minding the business of others.

Such people we instruct and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to work quietly

and to eat their own food.

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

This reading from 2 Thessalonians reflects a similar issue and message as the first reading. Paul takes the initiative and says, “Rather we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you, so that you might imitate us.” In addition to presenting ourselves as a model, I would suggest that as parents, especially for husband and wife, and their children/grandchildren, we are to be the 5 M’s for others: = models, mentors, motivators, mediators, and messengers of faith, hope, love.

The following are suggested by Dolores Curran in her book, Traits of a Healthy Family. Which ones are practiced in your family, and which ones need practice?

- 1. COMMUNICATES AND LISTENS**
- 2. AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTIVE OF ONE ANOTHER**
- 3. TEACHES RESPECT FOR OTHERS**
- 4. DEVELOPS TRUST**
- 5. HAS A SENSE OF PLAY AND HUMOR**

6. SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

7. TEACHES A SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG

8. TREASURES FAMILY TRADITIONS

9. BALANCE OF INTERACTION AMONG MEMBERS

10. SHARED RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL CORE – “But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays.”

11. RESPECTS PRIVACY OF ONE ANOTHER

12. VALUES SERVICE TO OTHERS OUTSIDE

13. FOSTERS FAMILY TABLE TIME/CONVERSATION

14. SHARES LEISURE TIME TOGETHER

15. ADMITS TO AND SEEKS HELP WITH

In the twenty or so references to the Second Coming of the Lord, Paul encourages the Christian community to live with their faces toward the dawn and to bask in the radiant light of Christ who has died, is risen, and will come again. In the meantime, seek the spiritual

balance of the already and not yet, a sound mind in a sound body, and to be wrapped in the spiritual blanket of God's love.

Alleluia

[Luke 21:28](#)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
Stand erect and raise your heads
because your redemption is at hand.
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

[Luke 21:5-19](#)

While some people were speaking about
how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings,
Jesus said, "All that you see here--
the days will come when there will not be left
a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

Then they asked him,
"Teacher, when will this happen?
And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?"
He answered,
"See that you not be deceived,
for many will come in my name, saying,
'I am he,' and 'The time has come.'
Do not follow them!
When you hear of wars and insurrections,
do not be terrified; for such things must happen first,
but it will not immediately be the end."
Then he said to them,
"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.
There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues
from place to place;
and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.

**“Before all this happens, however,
they will seize and persecute you,
they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons,
and they will have you led before kings and governors
because of my name.
It will lead to your giving testimony.
Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand,
for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking
that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.
You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends,
and they will put some of you to death.
You will be hated by all because of my name,
but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.
By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”**

A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.

The Gospel of Luke, is comprised of two parts, speaking of false angels, messengers, or messiah coupled with great disasters that will swoop down without warning. There will be suffering, persecution, and the testing of faith. In the throes of these troublesome times, the Spirit will be at work bringing a message of hope, promise, and fulfillment. People will lose their lives, but not their “real” selves. There is no heavenly timetable in today’s readings where we could plan one’s details about future happenings. Rather, we are to dig our spiritual heels into the soil of the present world, and roll up the sleeves of our faith to help push back the forces of darkness. As Abraham Lincoln

wrote during his tumultuous times, “I would submit to your will, for you are good and wise; Let every anxious thought be still, nor one faint murmur arise. Your Love can cheer the darksome gloom, and bid me wait serene, till hopes and joys immortal bloom, and brighten all the scene.”

Final prayer: God of the already, not yet – Now is the time to be aware and vigilant, and to continue our mission of service as models, mentors, motivators, mediators, and messengers of faith, hope, and love. Daily seeking a balance between the already and not yet. Amen.