

# Proper 28 – Year C

## What's Happening in Sunday School

Today's texts concern "the Day of the Lord," a prophetic device used throughout the Old Testament prophets to describe the singular, cataclysmic end of history when God would visit final justice on the world, separate the righteous from the wicked, and consume the world in fire. The set up for the Day of the Lord, which runs through all four passages of scripture today, is a picture of the world divided between a majority that forgets God, and a minority of the righteous persecuted by the wicked. We see this in Malachi, Luke, and 2 Thessalonians. The idle "busybodies" against whom St. Paul speaks were people who assumed the Day of the Lord was immanent, and so they stopped working and started free-loading.

Following this set-up, we see Malachi and our Lord give a description of the agony of this Day of the Lord: fire, destruction, war, and persecution. But, set as a counterpoint against this is some good news. God will give us some forewarning: Malachi warns that Elijah will return as a sign; and our Lord's own warning about the terrible conditions preceding the destruction of the temple. The Psalm tells us that the final judgment of God is a matter of rejoicing for those patiently waiting the coming of the Lord. So, we derive from today's texts a three-fold call: to watch for the Day, to wait patiently for its coming, and to rejoice when it gets here - provided we hold with endurance to the confession of Christ Jesus.

## Digging Deeper

- When exactly are the end times supposed to occur?
- Are the end times a thing to be feared?
- What does the Church teach about the end times?
- Who did Jesus say the returning Elijah would be?

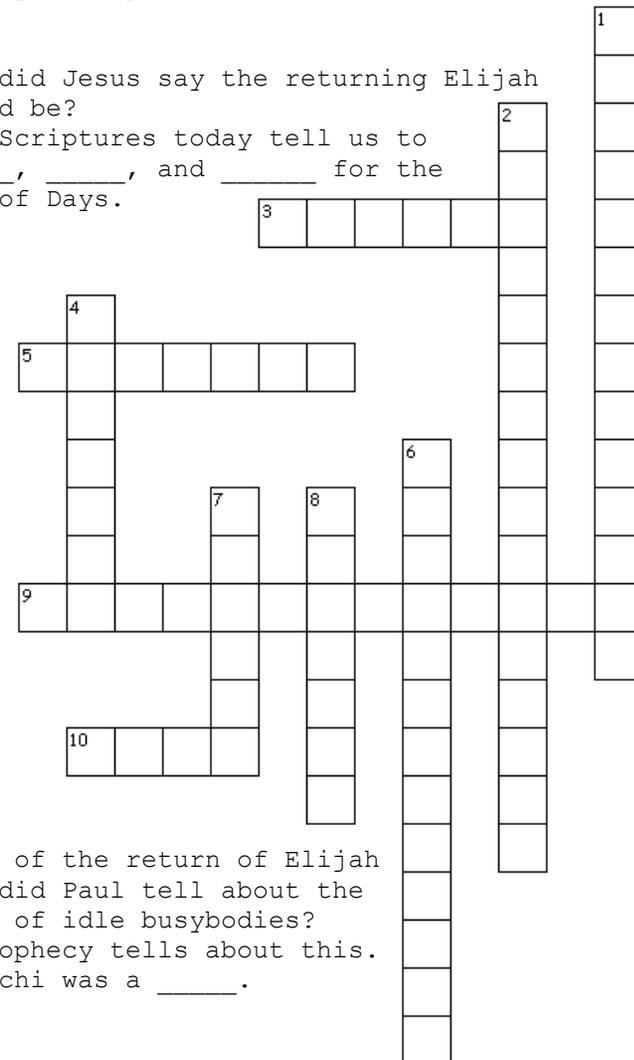
## Fun Page

Across

3. Jesus will separate the people who \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord from the righteous.
5. Prophets are giving God's special words as a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. "In \_\_\_\_\_ shall He judge the world."
10. Today's Gospel

Down

1. Who did Jesus say the returning Elijah would be?
2. The Scriptures today tell us to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ for the End of Days.



4. Told of the return of Elijah
6. Who did Paul tell about the dangers of idle busybodies?
7. A prophecy tells about this.
8. Malachi was a \_\_\_\_\_.