

## REFLECTION FOR THE THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The liturgy for this 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time invites us to read human history from a perspective of hope. It assures us that selfishness, violence, injustice, and sin do not have the “last word” in the history of the world and of its people; for the “last word” will always be God's. A God who will, in time, change the night of the world into a dawn of endless life. It is with this certainty that we must face life and the road ahead of us. In the end, it will always be God who will establish his kingship. In the end it will always be love *that wins*, because it has already conquered the world in Jesus Christ.

The first reading, from the book of Daniel, a book written when the People of God were suffering persecution by Antiochus [the] IV<sup>th</sup> Epiphanes [ /æn' tɑɪ. əkəs ɛ' pɪfənɪ: z ], king of Syria and Palestine, announces to believers that God does not abandon his people. God will once again hear the cry of his people and deliver them from the hands of their enemies. Justice will shine again. God's salvation will come to pass. This hope should sustain the righteous in their affliction and encourage them to remain faithful to God.

With the psalmist, we are invited to pray:

*Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.*

*The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup  
you hold my lot.*

*I have set the Lord always before me;*

*because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.*

The second reading reminds us that Jesus came into the world as the living God's plan of salvation: *to free people from sin and to bring them into a dynamic of eternal life*. Through his life and his witness, Christ taught us to overcome selfishness and sin and to make life a gift of love for God and for our brothers and sisters. This is the way of the new world, the way that leads to the *definitive* life. He is our High Priest who “*has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place forever, at the right hand of God, ... By virtue of that single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all who he is sanctifying.*” We put our trust in him, in the certainty that with him we too can overcome the world, overcome hatred and violence, by choosing the paths of peace, justice, and love.

In the Gospel, Jesus assures us that his Kingdom will be a reality. When the definitive establishment of that Kingdom will take place, no one knows, but it doesn't matter either, the important thing is that we hold firm to our faith, hope,

and charity, so that when the Lord comes, he will find us working in his vineyard and committed to building his Kingdom; so that we can be part of his *elect* and share in his glory for ever and ever.

Amen.