**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 11 – XXXII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**For just as lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be (in his day). But first he must suffer greatly and be rejected by this generation.**

**Now the Pharisees ask a question to Jesus: “When will the kingdom of God come?” Here is the reply of Jesus: the kingdom of God does not come to be observed. It does not come with legions to conquer men and territories. It comes with the sweetness, the suavity, the fortitude of the proclamation of the Word. One preaches the Word, one believes in the Gospel, one obeys the voice of the Messiah, one is in the kingdom of God. One does not preach the Word, one does not believe in the Gospel, one does not listen to the voice of the Messiah, one might never become kingdom of God. The kingdom of God does not come with the Messiah in charge of an army of conquer, occupation, submission of people and of nations. This is a kingdom in the manner of men. Jesus does not come with the sword. He comes with the Word, accompanied by signs, miracles, mighty deeds, to attest that his is the true Word of God. If his is Word of God, it must be accepted as true Word of God. One should found one’s own faith upon it.**

**One may say that an army is present. One sees it. One hears the sound of its advancing. On the contrary, when the kingdom of God comes, no one may say: “Here is it”, or, “There is it” The kingdom of God is not a thing of the earth. The kingdom of God is the creation of the life of Christ in man. Here is why Jesus can say: “For behold, the kingdom of God is among you." The kingdom of God is the Word and the life of Christ Jesus living in his disciples. Where is the kingdom of God, then? Where there is Christ who lives the Word of the Father. Where there is the Christian who lives the Word of Christ Jesus. One separates Christ Jesus from the Word, there is no kingdom of God. One separates the Christian from the Word, there is no kingdom of God. This unity between Word and Jesus, Word and Christian will never have to be destroyed. Even between the Church and the Word not only should this truth be confessed, it must be reinforced every day. Where the Word is not, there is no Kingdom there. It might never be. Here is what the kingdom of God is for the Apostle Paul and who are the edifiers of it on our earth:** “**And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love. So I declare and testify in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; darkened in understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance, because of their hardness of heart, they have become callous and have handed themselves over to licentiousness for the practice of every kind of impurity to excess. That is not how you learned Christ, assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth. Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger, and do not leave room for the devil. The thief must no longer steal, but rather labor, doing honest work with his (own) hands, so that he may have something to share with one in need. No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. (And) be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ. (Eph 4, 11-32)**

**Let us read the text of Lk 17,20-25**

**Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he said in reply, "The coming of the kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce, 'Look, here it is,' or, 'There it is.' For behold, the kingdom of God is among you." Then he said to his disciples, "The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. There will be those who will say to you, 'Look, there he is,' (or) 'Look, here he is.' Do not go off, do not run in pursuit. For just as lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be (in his day). But first he must suffer greatly and be rejected by this generation.**

**Seeing the eternal Son of the Father in the flesh, present in the world, into dialogue, while teaching the things of the kingdom or performing miracles, is an unrepeatable grace. This grace has been granted to the disciples and to the children of Israel only for three years. Then he said to his disciples, "The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it.” This desire of seeing Jesus in his flesh again and touching Him in his body and hearing Him while He speaks to them, will be in their heart, but it might not be fulfilled. With the glorious resurrection of Jesus, even his body is light. The disciples will have to be vigilant so that this desire does not become a temptation for them. Here is the temptation: “There will be those who will say to you, 'Look, there he is,' (or) 'Look, here he is.' Do not go off. Do not run in pursuit.” Why not going and why not running. The answer is in the Words of Jesus: “You will desire to see, but you will not see it.” Jesus will no longer come back in a visible form, as today, in his body of flesh. He might even appear to one or more people. But He appears and then disappears. Those of Jesus are temporary apparitions. One may say of having seen the Lord, but one might never say: “Go for there you will find the Lord in his visibility.” One can find Him in the invisibility of the Eucharist. This does.**

**Another truth that must be highlighted: the coming of the Son of man is similar in all to the lighting flash. It appear to everyone in the same way. No one might say to another one: “Look at that direction, there is a lighting flash.” It already disappears. No one will have to say to another one: “Look, there is the Son of Man.” The Son of man appears and everyone will see him. For just as lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be (in his day). Sudden apparition, with no prior announcement, visible by everyone in the same moment. But who is the Son of man? He is Jesus, who comes clothed with power and glory. He comes as Lord and Judge of living and dead. He alone is the Lord. Every man who plays to be the Lord, the Saviour, the Redeemer today, who plays to declare himself God and Mighty One, must reflect, think, meditate. Tomorrow he, too, must show up before Christ Jesus, the only Lord, the only Judge.**

**Another essential truth: Jesus comes neither today nor tomorrow. First, every prophecy on his current life must be fulfilled. Then, each of his Word uttered today and dealing with his coming above the clouds of heaven will be fulfilled: “But first he must suffer greatly and be rejected by this generation.” The much sufferance is his condemnation to death by crucifixion. Jesus is condemned by his people since he is accused of blasphemy. In what did his blasphemy consist? In saying to the chief priest that He will come above the clouds of heaven tomorrow. In affirming that in his person, the prophecy of the prophet Daniel is fulfilled. He is the man receiving every power. He is the plenipotentiary of the Father. The Father, by his means, exercises his power over earth, in time, in eternity, in heaven and in hell. May our heavenly Mother help us. We are all called to edify the kingdom of God among men.**